BANCROFT FAMILY PAPERS

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PAUL M. BANCROFT MD

GRACE ELIZABETH BANCROFT

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#10

Jan. 8, 1857

An Acrostic.

Will God in Mercy be our guide
In all the devious paths of life.
Let prayers be heard when ill betides
Let no vain thought engender strife.
In all our life let this be our aim,
Advance in grace nor suffer shame.
Most foolish of earths follish things
Our love to weaken for the King of Kings.
But may our hearts in perfect union be,
And all our life be spent in harmony
Nor ever let our selfish passions rise;
Can ought to quickly our hopes beyond the skies
Recall. And then to earths trifling toys
Our hopes, which should rest in heavenly joys;
For unto us the promise sure,
To dwell in heaven if we endure.

Wm.Oscar Bancroft

1379 Hamilton
Jan 29, 1857

Mrs. Lois Stevens
Colesville, N.Y.

Dear Sister,

We are all well except I have a head ach. Was not able to go to recitation and so venture to write to you during study hours. We received your letter and were made glad and sad by its conttents. Glad that Levi has finally theshed the oats but sorry he did not feel disposed tod eal fairly andvery sad that he still retians the disposiion to kill his neighbors dogs. And so old"dromo" has at last met her death at the hand of an assssin I am glad I was not there to witness the death scene. You ought to have seen us when we read the news. It caused some fun for Albert and Harriet as they could not sympathize with us. Having never felt any particular affection for her. But enough of this.

Irene must not be imprudent. I am glad she is so smart but expect to hear a different story soon unless you make her mind. Tell her as Prof. Buell tells his scholars "that their judgements must yield to the jusdgements of their superiors."

We sympathize with Frederick in his affliction. and hope he will be careful not to get cold in his fingers. There was a lady burried her last sabath who died very suddenly. She knocked her hand on a door, taking off a small piece of skkin and her hand and arm mortified in a week causing her death.

Elvira and Marynwrote us that the Lord was working among them. And today Harriet received a letter from Mrs. Marshall telling us that Florance had been adopted into the fold of Christ. I thought of Reuben he is not tob young to give his heart to God. I should rejoice to hear he had done so. There are several who will be baptized here next sabath. It give me joy that sinners yielding to the Lord anywhere but especially in Colesville.How I have and do still desire the prsperity of that church.

I have not heard from Sanford since I was at home, Suppose he is not there are you would have written.

I do not understand what you mean by saying you have not received the ten dollars from Leander. I have no remembrance of any indebtedness.

You have done well with the Buffalo robe I feel condemned spmetimes when I think what a load of care I left for you. But do not let it wear upon you. I am afraid I shall never repay you. Charley is studying mental arithmentuc. He has been writing some to Zada. I shall give him a chance to write to you when he comes ho home from school.

Betsey

to Lois.

over

Dear Aunt Lois,

I am well. I wish I could see Rueben an aunt Irene's baby.

Charley

Charley says he has written Dear Aunt Lois wish I could see Ruebben and Aunt Irenes baby. He amusing hi self by printing on a slate copying from hooks.

February 6, 1857

Clora Martin
Hamilton

Dear Cousin Clora,

I received your letter with much joy, as a token of remembrance from a true friend and take the earliest opportunity of expressing my gratitude for the favor. I am glad that in this enlightened age friends can hold fellowship with friends though far separated by intervening space through the medium of pen, ink and paper. The privilege of which I too often neglect to avail myself, partly from want of leisure but chiefly from inability to express my thoughts on paper. I congratulate you much on having courage in having justice to that offending tooth you wrote about. I think I can fully sympathize with all who are afflicted with toothache. Mine have been much more peaceable than usual this winter. Since you were here there has been meetings at Harpursville nearly every evening which we have attended most of the time. We were prevented this evening on account of the traveling. We have had some very interesting evenings. I believe there have been 20 who have expressed hope in Christ and many who are yet without hope who have asked for prayers of Christians. Cousin remember them in your prayers. There will be Covenant meeting tomorrow, when it is expected that there will be some present who wish to unite with the church. There were four funerals in Harpursville in January. Judge Ruggles, a little daughter of Mr. Peck, John Watrous and Mrs. Reed Baker. I have not seen Cousin Lois or Irene since you were here. I can tell you nothing about your young nephew. Please write often.

Jane.

(Jane Martin, daughter of Harry Martin, soon to be William Oscar's first wife. PMB)

Febr 7, 1857

Trusties of the Baptist Church and Society
In account with Bancroft & Martin.

Jan. 5, 1857		on gallon of burning fluid	1.00
		one pound of candles	.19
9,	"	one cord four foot wood	1.30
		three gals. fluid	3.00
12	"	one cord of 4 foot wood	1.30
13	"	two gals fluid	2.00
15	"	one pound of candles	.19
		Lamp wick	.13
17	"	two gals. of fluid	2.00
22	"	three gals fluid	3,00
28	"	one pound of candles	.19
30	"	three gals. fluid	3.00
Feb. 5	"	one gal. fluid	1.00
7	"	Bancroft and Martin one subscription	3.00
			17.70
		bal due from last yr.	6.17
			23.87

May 1, 1857.

Lot Oscar Bancroft bought in anticipation of his marriage to Jane Martin, his first wife. It was on the edge of Harpursville on the Belden road.

Beginning in the center of the road on the line between the said Bancroft and Hard fence, North in the center of the highway ten rods, thence westerly 8 rods to a stake and stone on the line between said Hard and Bancroft, thense easterly 8 rods

Hornellsville
April 9, 1858

Mrs. Stevens
Harpursville

Dear Girls,

I have been wondering why we have not received a letter from you and wishing you would write, when it occurred to me that you had not heard from my pen in some time. In fact I have not written since I was sick.

I am getting along finely now. Little Henry Martin Rose was three weeks old Tuesday morning, and I have been visiting him twice. He grows nicely too and the large swelling on his head has disappeared. At this point I had to attend to the wants of this little newcomer. But now while he is lying in my lap I will resume my description of him. How I wish you could see him with his deep blue eyes staring mama in the face, a little round head, plump cheeks and a dimple in each and a double chin. He is I think as nice a baby as can be produced anywhere.

We are nicely located in our new house. But we are not fully settled yet for I have not felt myself strong enough to go from room to room and regulate things. Mr. Rose has been papering our rooms. Although I told you I had been visiting I would not have you think I was robust yet. I expect I get along as fast as could be expected but am obliged to be very careful and cannot do many things. I take care of the babe and that is about all I can do.

Do tell me Sanford's address. Glad to hear Betsey is getting better. Can it be that Cousin Jane is dead? Now mysteries are the ways of Providence. Write me the particulars. When will Clora come and see us? Will Betsey be able to come? Let me know and we will meet you. In love as ever,

Zada (Martin) Rose

(Refers to Jane (Martin) Bancroft's death with first child. PMB)

At Home
May 16, 1858

Mr. William O. Bancroft
Harpursville, N. Y.

Dear Cousin,

(This letter, like the others, was delivered by messengers in the family rather than through the mails, so as to avoid publicity regarding this romance, which would involve gossip.)

This beautiful Sabbath finds me alone in the retirement of my room. And with sincere pleasure I take pen to converse with and thus redeem the promise I gave you when I saw you last. The privilege of going up to the sanctuary has not been mine today. You have probably enjoyed its hallowed influence. It is indeed pleasant to enjoy opportunities so congenial to our feeling and refreshing to our spirit. But we can endure the deprivation of them with cheerfulness when we reflect that in so doing we may be of use to those in need and perhaps better glorify God. I have been spending the day with sister Mary. I had not learned of little Mary's illness till this morning. It seemed that duty required me to stay with her and if possible give her mother a little rest. O! How anxious I feel for her recovery. Although I know it is blessed to die in childhood ere the heart has known the sting of sin yet I am desirous that she should live to cheer her mother's lone pathway. We know the all wise God will do right. Perhaps he may deem it necessary to take the lamb to himself, to lead the mother's mind from the groveling things of earth. Need I tell you that your letter of the first instant was welcome. It was indeed and peculiarly so as I had feared lest the reply to your kind note never reached you. Had thought perhaps I did wrong by sending it by your father, and imagined I detected in his looks he thought it so. I did not know of your being in the city. I cannot bear to think that life

seems a "burden" to you. Please do not indulge such feelings. Are they not wrong ones? I well remember the heart anguish I felt when our home was desolated by death. But father and brother snatched from our affections so suddenly and the relation between husband and wife is dearer even than between father and child. Therefore your anguish must be greater than I ever experienced. I trust you do not feel like murmuring. But rather can say with Eli of old "It is the Lord, let him do what seemeth to him good." "It is not all darkness, this pathway of ours. Even grief has its sunshine and toil its flowers ---"

(Long quote)

When I was at your home I could not rise above my own feelings of melancholy and sadness to say anything comforting to others. Perhaps you wondered that I did not allude to Jane, but she was in my thought continually and I did not wish to give vent to my feelings in the presence of others. I felt inclined to ask the privilege of going alone into the room where I saw Jane last. But thought perhaps this not best. Tears are a relief but I think it wrong to give expression to immoderate grief. Tis a greater relief to look away from the earth to the glories our friends are surrounded with.

Thursday, Schoolroom. I enclosed this epistle Saturday evening thinking to hand it to you on the Sabbath. As your father is over I have decided to ask him to be the bearer of it to you. Tell me if you please if this is improper.

Lucy has promised to visit us before she leaves for the West. Will you not accompany them? I cannot help feeling sad she is to leave us soon. Please excuse haste.

Clora.

Miss Susan Ruggles, Amelia Palmer, Rowena Barnes, Elizabeth Harpur and Frances A. Northrup widow and daughters of Timothy Ruggles, late of the Town of Colesville, deceased; agree to sell to Henry Merrills, Daniel Martin, Lewis Robinson, Miner Marsh and John D. Bancroft, all our right and interest in about one half acre of land, be the same more or less, formerly owned an occupied by Edmond Ketchum, bounded and described as follows. to wit; on the west side by the highway, on the north by the land owned by David Brown, of the east by land belonging to Harmon Tyrrell and on the south by the Baptist meeting house lot. For which together with the right and interest of Martin and Charles T. Ruggles minor heirs, the said Henry Nerrills, Daniel Martin, Lewis Robinson, Miner P. MARsh and John D. Bancroft agree to give their joint note, bearing the date of May 13, 1857 for the sum of $1,000., the first installment to be paid on the first day of April 1858 with interest payable annually. The $1,000. note will be payable and is payment in full for the lot.

The said Susan Ruggles, Amelia Palmer, Rowena Barnes, Elizabeth Harpur and Frances Northrup do hereby agree to convey by a good warantee deed to the said Henry Merrills and associates all their right and title to said lot which is seven ninths of the whole. Said deed to be executed and delivered to Said Merrills and others one month f om the date of this contract

As witness our hands and seals this 19th day of May 1857.

In the presence of obert Harpur

Susan Ruggles
Amelia Plamer
Rowena Barnes
Elizabeth Harpur
France A. Northrup

Contract fulfilled.

January 9, 1853 Lords day

Doctor John Demarest Bancroft, Harpursville, 52, Henry Merrill
to v & m for son 1.00

May 20, 1857

Dr. John Demarest Bancroft, Harpursville, 57 years

Memorandum of the Society owning the Parsonage in Harpursville for the Baptist Church Society, Town of Colesville, County of Broome

Society Members:

Henry Merrill	John D. Bancroft
Daniel Martin	Sylvester Wilcox
Lewis Robinson	Sidney Sornborger
Minor P. Marsh	Ira Martin
Fred W. Martin	Nelson Stow

Harpursville
May 30, 1857

Daniel Martin, Ira Martin, Henry Merrill, Nelson Stow and John D. Bancroft, having met in the house of J. D. Bancroft according to previous appointment,

Organized by choosing Daniel Martin, Chairman
John D. Bancroft, Secretary.

Adopted the following Articles:

Articles of Agreement entered into this 20th day of May, 1857, between Henry Merrill, Daniel Martin, Lewis Robinson, Minor P. Marsh, John D. Bancroft, Sylvester Wilcox, Sidney Sornborger, Ira Martin, Nelson Stow, Fred W. Martin, Morton Dickenson, all of the Towne of Colesville, County of Broome, State of New York. Witnesseth that the said parties have this day entered into a co-partnership purchase and hold a certain house and lot situated in the Village of Harpursville and known as the Edmund Ketchum property, do agree to be governed by the following rules and regulations as to holding and management of said property.

Minor P. Marsh	$ 50.00
Sylvester Wilcox	100.00
John D. Bancroft	200.00
Sidney Sornborger	25.00
Daniel Martin	100.00

Henry Merrill	$ 200.00
Ira Martin	100.00
Nelson Stow	50.00
Lewis Robinson	100.00
F. W. Martin	25.00

Resolved:

That we have but one agent to conduct our business and act as our agent.

John D. Bancroft was unanimously chosen to that office.

September, 1858

At a called meeting of the stockholders.

Resolved:

That our agent J. D. Bancroft be hereby authorized and empowered to sell the above property.

1336

My 22 1857 Saturday.

D

On other week has passed and it has seeme a long one. You will not wonder when I tell you I have been allone. Lois and Betsey have been absent. Theystarted for Hornellsville Wednesday morning, not intending to be absent but a week. Yet it seems a longer time has elapsed since they left. My school has taken up my time and attention during the day ti e and preventing my loneliness from being un supportable as it would have otherwise have been. But I cannot help dreding the night. How fiting a time is Saturday evening for meditation. The settling of the accounts of the week with our own soul. and for giving thanks to the giver of all good. Surely I have many reasons for gratitude. And not the least among these that Betsey is again so ne arly restored to health, Others have ha dear friend s taken but her life has been spar ed to me that I yet may share in her sister ly council and love. She walked all alone about the house before she left home. The friendship and affection of kind friends is all that makes earth pleasant to me. Perhaps these are more essential to my happiness than to many. Some there are who do seem to care for the sympathy of kindred spirits, but to me earth wouod be a d dreary desert with out it Allow me to express the hope that you will often "divert your mind" in writing to me. And believe me your true fir4nd Clora.

May 25, 1857

William Oscar Bancroft

My Friend,

When last we met you said "Shall I expect a letter from you?", and the thought that you will expect it induces me to take my pen at this late hour of evening.

Another week with all its toils and cares and its pleasures too has almost past away, and our old clock has just announced nine. How swifly the days and weeks do fly away to return to us no more, many of them days of precious memory, days on which we would write as they pass, never to be forgotten. And in reviewing the bygone hours, I see that among the happiest of my life have been the hours I have spent in your society, Dear Oscar.

You can scarcely imagine the pleasure which the reading of your very affectionate letter gave me, to one to whom every word from you will ever be thrice welcome. I had never till that time fully realized the wealth of your affection, which your noble heart so freely bestowed upon me. I read "Thing Wholly", I could better ask, "Is it mine - mine with joy, the happiness of being thus loved." And yet me thinks my heart can appreciate, and return that love.

"While treading lifes rough way, tis sweet,
To find some kindred spirit
One to whom the soul seems knit by hidden ties,
In blest companionship."

Ah, who would not gladly find such a kindred spirit, and a heart to commune with its own? Such I rejoice in having found even now.

But it is time for me to wish you, Good night.

Saturday evening Jane

(Jane Martin is the daughter of Harry E. Martin who married William Oscar Bancroft, June 24, 1857, and died nine months later with her first child. When he remarried he married Clora Martin, her cousin and the daughter of Deacon Samuel Martin. Both of these girls were warmly affectionate and responded to his kind, gentle and considerate treatment. He was a very good husband and father. PMB)

#12 1851 269.

Hinnamahoning, Pa.
May 27

William O. Bancroft
Harpursville, n.y.

Dear Friend,

Your of April 16 arrive May 1. But immid the mul-titude of duties incumbent upon me I have not answere-earlier. I was glad to here you had come back to Harpursville. Indeed this was the most pleasant igtem of news. I agree with you in thinking if circumsstances faver me to visit mother again we shall be permitted to get a sight of each other. You could not regret more than I did last fall my inability to visit you. I think ofcoming oout in June. When I hope to see you. And spend a week with you. Health. that best of blessings, which gives tone to all the enjoyments of life and without which life itself is endured rather than enjoyed, Is still dispensed to me abundantly by the bountiful author and ustainer of my life. Oh, how grateful and obedient we out to be, to the giver of all good, for this unceasing care over us. May we in return devote every energy of soul, body and spirit to the advance ment of his glory, which will secure to us the bewt good for this world and that which is to come. Since the receipt of yours I have he,ard of the death of John Crawford. One by one our old friends are dropping into the grave. May the grim messenger find us well prepared and ready for his summons when it shall be our turn. I am pleased with your suggestion respecting our correspondence and coincide with you that extracts from our journals occasionally might prove of interest to both of us. As time is very precious to m me just now I shall have to draw my letter abruptly to a close. Hoping erre long to have a pleasant chat with you and tell you what I have doing and thinking.

I remain you friend, most truly yours

George R. Vosberg

May 30, 1857

#1987

Small book of the Baptist Church Society,

Memorandum of the Society owning the Parsonage for the Baptist Church Society, Town of Coeasville County of Broome, N.Y. 1857

Names of members
Henry Merrill
Daniel Martin
Lewis Robeinson
Minor P. Marsh
John D. Bancroft
Sylvester Wilcox
Sidney Sornborger
Ira Martin
Nelson Stow
Fred W. Martin

Daniel Martin, Ira Martin, Henry Merrill, Nelson Stow and John D. Bancroft having met at the home of J.D.Bancroft according to previous appointment, organized by choosing

Daniel Martin, to act as Chariman.
John D. Bancroft, Secretary.

Adopted the following articles- entered into on the above date Between Henry Merrill, Daniel Martin, Lewis Robinson, Minor P. Marsh, John D. Bancroft, Sylvester Wilcox, Sidney Sornborger. Ira Martin, Nelson Stow and Fred W. Martin all of the Town of Coeasville, oonty of Broome, State of New York, Witnesseth- that the said parties have this day entered into a copartnership to purchase and hold a certain house and lot situated in the Village of Harpursville and known as the Edmond Ketchum Property. Do agree to be governed by the following rules and regulations as the holding and managemnat of this property-

1- Said property having been purchased by a joint note of $1000.00 singed by Henry Merrill, Daniel Martin, Lewis Robinson, Minor P. Marsh and John D. Bancroft payable to Susan Ruggles and the heirs of Timothy Ruggles and payable in anual installmenys of $200.00 each with anual interest, Therefor-

2- We do agrees to divide said sum of $1000.00 into shares of $25.00 each and to pay into the hands of the individual of our number whom we shall elect from time to time to manage the affairs of said property, our proportion of said amou t in the proportion of the sums set oposite our names attached to this agreement or in manner as we should agree from ti e to time and bear tht expense of managing and maintaing in repair said property in a like proportion and to divide the profits and avils of said property in like manner.

3. Thet in the leotion of a person or persons to manage and take care of said property & in the direction and control of siad property, each individual shall have one vote for each share of stock he may

hold
4- That we expect to be controlled and bind ourselves to each other and our agent whom we shll elect to governed by the usual laws and regulations binding in such so partnerships
5- That we will met on the last Saturday in Mar ch of each year to choose officers and do such business as may be nessessary to the successful management of said property.
Dated Colesville, May 20, 1857

Minor P. Marsh	$50.00
Sylvestor Wilcox	100.00
John D. Bancroft	200.00
Sidney Sorborger	25.00
Daniel Martin	100.00
Henry Merrill	200.00
Ira Martin	100.00
Nelson Stow	50.00
Lewis Robinson	100.00
F. W. Martin	25.00

After the adoption of the above
Resolved-That we have but one agent to conduct our business and act as our agent,-
John D. Bancroft was unanimously chosen to that office to act as our agent for the enueing year.
Resolved- That our agent attend to the necessary repiars and present the bill to our anual meeting
Resolved- that our agent charge Mrs. E. Winton $26. for the rent f that portion of the house she is to occupy.
Adjpuned sine die
David Partin Pres.
John D. Bancroft Sec.

Sept. 1858
At a called meeting of the stockholders-
Resolved that our agent, J.D.Bancroft, be hereby , authorized and empowered to sell the above property

270 1/2

Delavan
June 11, 1857

Mrs. Lois Stevens
Harpursville
Dear Sister,

Yours of May 28 came to hand after a long journey and delay. We are in usual health. Except it is Monday morning and I am too nervouse to do anything. Got home from Friday evening, had a good time.

We are having a fine shower. Grass and weeds grow finely as I find to my consternation Being absent from my garden all week, the week of the Association. I have been mowing and weeding today but this rain is against me I am cultivation 1½ acre with a hoe. As my cold is not

I shall remain at Delevain until some wider door seems to open before me. I preach every sabbath, attend funerals and marriages etc. Besides bible class at 3; oclock in afternoon sabbath. I have not yet established regular qppointments in the country around where yet. Shall soon. I have for the present given up all thought of visiting Colesville this year. Please send my share of the income from the farm in draft on New York. Of course you will retain enough to do my shares on keeping up the taxes. I am in no sort of fever about selling the farm. Lands in that region will rise yet. So that thought every building and every rod fo fence be gone yet if the growing timber is preserved the old farms will sell for more than I have heard any one offering for it.

Tuesday. I was called off by the alamm consequent to the clothesline breaking full of clothese. When matters were duly righted I went to sthe store and purchawed a new cotton line. 100 feet long, wighing 25 lbs for $1.25 Some things we buy here are much higher thanwith you Every thing we buy is dear now.

It is another rainy day. My garden is like a man of words and not deeds. According to the old copy books.

You wrote me of a proposition made by Le rRoy to take the mill farm at $1600. I judge now from your letter he is on it. Though I have seen no deed for me to sign. Niether have I seen any of the Shiners to pay for my share. I have no objection to your renting the farm to any good responsible man but the timber on all our lands must be preserved. I have lived in a prairie so long I can almost worship trees of any kind. I will send you a copy on minutes of the Association which have been published. Myra and the children join in love to you and yours. Pray for us. Write often. Farewell

Sanford Martin.

1383 Hormellsville 271

Mrs John M Stevens June 16, 1857
Harpursville, N.Y
Dear Sister,

You letter mailed yesterday was received today. I was glad to hear from you.

I have been quite out of health today. Occasioned I think by the death of a child in mr. Brundages family of tyhpid fever which ended in congestion on the brain. He die Sunday of a very paiful death and I was present and assisted in laying him out and the excitement was too much for me and my nervous system is completely prostrated. My head is in a dreadful state.

Wednesday- I took and emetic yesterday which operated like a charm and although I am very week my head is greatly relieved and I feel much better. So much so that I expect Mr. Rose will leave me to go to Burns to atrend a Genesee River Association this pm. There is a little girl coming to stay with me while he is gone. I shall try and not get the hysterics till his return Lately if anything ails me I am so very nervous I can hardly control myself. We expect if we are prospered in getting means to go with to start on our visiting tour in about a week.

The chedk was received allsafe which you sent. I design to get my money and put it out at interest and not spend it right away. As I did the forty recieved last fall from the estate 76.33
Mr. Rose is well and Frank is well Write often

I am sorry the farms in C cannot be sold Galesville
Mr. Rose has taken pains to try to find purchasers and is willing to do all he can. It does seem ss if they might be sold.

We somethink we shall not remain here long but I hope God will direct.

Mr. Rose's 1 st years salary was said to be $400. There is still $100 back and $90 went for house rent and if we had not had $140 when we came we should have faired poorly. This year they have agreed to pay $600. ¼ half the year is gone and we have received about $70. They do not know they can raise the amount we have asked to go on our journey. Mr. Rose is worn out with labor and we are both about used up. We have asked for a short vacation and if we can get the means we shall go. If not I do not know but it will be our duty to pull up stakes. What can we do. The church is poor, tis a hard time to hoe. Evey thing is high here. The little church has just begun to hoe. They have been blessed in the erection of a house. A few souls have been cn converted. But Mr. Rose is so narly broke down by his labor, he must have rest for a time. And we shall have to live or he and I will say no more. Good by

Zada.

1364

New York
July 2, 1857

Dear Sister,

I have today enclosed a package of Mr. Kinkades pamphlets, directed to Colesville, Broome County. I am sorry the News failed to reach you. I feel quite sure I sent them. The call for these pamphlets has been very extensive. And they are nearly all gone. Not withstandi ng the great effort that has been made to prevent people needing them by pronouncing them miss-apprehension and so forth Exageration etc. Our subscription list is increasing gradually every month and we feel much encouraged.

Yours Sincerely
N. Brown.

Should this fail toreach you and I will put thm up singly and see if that succee ds.

Hamilton,
July 15, 1857

Mr. J.M.Stevens
Harpursville, N,Y,
Dear Sister,

I have just returned from the Seminary where I have been to make arrangements for on public meeting. Which is to come off Tuesday evening the 21st. We are in trouble today as there is the prospect that one of our chief actors will be expelled and not allowed to take the part assigned her. The teachers met me this morning, strongly urged that I write an address to fill the vacancy. Prof. Buel would excuse me from recitations if I would do so. I have not consented todo it and shall not unless necessary to prevent an entire faiure. I feel there is not time to do anything credit able tothe Society or myself. I have been as near distracted this afternoon as I ever was but I mean totake it calmly. Occupying the position that I do I cannot avoid feeling great anxiety that our first public effort may be a fine one. I feel troubled about affairs there, espicailly on your account. I do not feel capable of advising but I would say do not feel too great anxiety about the issue. As I think no one will blame you. For me to advixe would be like the executive committee prescribing for the missionaries on the field. So far as I am concerned I should say abide by the bargains to the letter. Or give it up to LeRoy for nothing. Now you know theold"fellow" who is seeking who he may devour can never be made subject to human laws. I think the best way to deal with individuals over whom he seems to have control is to let them alone. Striving to set them an examplr of Christian forebearance. And the Lord will reward them according totheir works. I do not feel bitter against LeRoy and perhaps ought n not to write thus. Indeed I sincerely pitty him and can but hope, if treated withthe greatest kindness he will see his error and take a different course. Irene does not answer Clora's letter, why, I do not know. I hope there may be no hard feelings. We are children of the same parents, each indulging the same hopes for eternity and cannot we have a warmness of feeling and oneness. The time is soon coming when we must leave ourearthly possessions. The bell was tolled twice on Saturday to remind us of our mortality. The firwt for a lady of 20 yrs who died of quick consumption the otherfor Mr. Boardman father of Mrs. Eaton aged 95. Charley Tumor has become quite bad. Dr. Van Bleek was here today and promised to make a syrup for him. He seems well and hearty and I am glad it is on the surface. We do not know whether Bro, Rose and Zada are west, they have not written.

we expect them here to commencement. May we not expect you. I am sure you would enjoy it. I do not think I could do any good by coming hmome before the close of the term. But any time when it is thought best I can come. My studies are mostly revews so I would not get behind by doing so. I have a new address for the occasion Tuesday. Of which I send you a strip (scarap) Write often. Your unworthy sister Betsey.

Will you please send Charley's income money of which you wrote some time ago. I am behind in paying my share of the expenses and Betaeys says she will lend that to me. Albert and Betsey purses are d unning low. O should pay my shARE

Clora.

Delavan, Ill
July 22, 1857

Dear Sister,

Yours of a long time ago came safely to hand. We are all in usual health. It is a very late and dry season. The wheat harvest has scarcely comenced We have nothing but spring wheat in these parts for the winter whe at was winter killed.

We have all been to Knoxville on a visit lately. Found our friends in health generally although there is a serious difficulty in the church. Safronia Marsh Huggins died while we were at Knoxville. I conversed with her a few minutes before her departure. She was gloriously systained by her trust in her Saviour. At her funeral I saw all the Marsh family except O zias who did not arrive in time. I saw also Mr and Mrs. Hartsharn Humiston withtwo daughters and son- in- law. Mrs. Humiston looks just as she used to when I went to meeting at the Dort school house 16 years ago. I send you a copy of the late minutes of the association.

Received a letter from Lois with a certificate of deposit and have not written her a word about its reception. I am getting to be careless about everything. The church are looking to Bro Pratt of the late Rochester graduating class to become our pastor. They have held a long correspondence with Rev, Dr. Robinson. and Bro. Everts and Cooley. Are bound to get the smartest man in all creation. While I smart under the injustice of a few by whom my resignation was brought about. So I am greatly flattered by the great effort to filll my place. I am still without charge. Though I preach a great deal all about the country. My family expenses are now so great that few churchs would be willing, I Wein, to assume the respons-ability of our support

Pay for us that the guiding hand of providence may lead us in all things. May heaven bless you and yours, prays your unworthy brother Sanford.

275

Mrs. J. D. Bancroft Hudson, July 27, 1857.
Harpursville, Broome, Co., N.Y.
My Worthy Friend Mrs. Bancroft.,

I trust I shall have your pardon for not writing sooner when I tell you how I have been circumstanced since I last saw you. When I left B I went to Albany, there I heard my mother was very poorly, and not expect her to live long. I started then for Illinois, I came on safely as far as Elgin, 40 miles west of Chicago , there I was stopped the cars could not run in consequence of a bad storm. Was detained three weeks, finally remained until spring. Did not like Illinois, consequently left and came tothis place.

I like it here very much. It is situated on the east shore of lake St. Croix, and directly oposite in Minnesota is the city of Lakeland. I went over and spent a day last week and I can say I never saw such hansom country, it is beautiful I am sure naturae has never formed anything to excell that part of Minnesota. I like that side better than Hudson athe it is not half as large. But it is growing very rapidly. as is Hudson also.

We have some privations here, we do not have much fruit. Ecept wild. But we have the best of water and good health. Doctors cant live here by their profession.

I find as good sociaty here as I have found in any place. We have good schools and five different places of worship. There is a settled minister in all but the Baptist. There has been one here for several years and they have concluded to make a change. He left last sabbath. Now they are in want of another.

Youwill doubtless wonder how I pass the time away. I have rented a large boarding house. I pay seven dollars rent. You no doubt will think I shall find enough to do to pay my rent. I pay my girls three dollars a week. I have five for board. My brother Elijah is here with me. He works at his trade. He gets $2.50 a day. I have $1.25 for making vests, that I only had $.75 in B. I think I can get along far better here than I could east. I have not registered coming west yet. My health is much better than when I was in B. And Elly has never been sick a day since I came west. She never looked as well as she does now. She has grown tall quite fast. She says, "I think if Doctor Bancroft would move here, that Mr. and Mrs. Bancroft and Oscar would all laugh and look happy to see Mary Katie and come in loaded down with flowers every day. She says, Mary Katie would act childish if she could see what quantity of flowers there is here, how she would laugh.

We have sent on and brought our mother here. She has been here three weeks and she has improved very much. She likes it here. She seems as happy as I eversaw her.

Now Mrs. B. I hope you will not do as I have done, but write soon. There is nothing that would give me more pleasure than to get a communication from you.

My regards to all of your family, let me hear from you, Is Oscar Married? Tell him to write me to let me know and what success he has had with the business, I left with him. Please remember me to all inquiring friends. Dont forget

Hornellsville
August 17, 1857

Mrs. Lois M. Stevens
Colesville, Broome County, N. Y.

Dear Sister,

We have just returned from a visit in Michigan and feel much fatigued. Concluded to defer our visit to Hamilton and Colesville to some other time. My health has not been good for two months post. And for two weeks previous to our visit west we were both confined to our beds, but got able to sit up nearly all day, so we concluded to start on our journey hoping it would benefit us. Mr. Rose in some ways improves but I am still poorly. I sometimes think I shall never get well until I can come home and have Lois nurse me up.

I suppose the girls will be home this week and you will have a fine time visiting. Wish I could be with you. Will not the girls make me a visit? Are they intending to go to school until they complete a course of study? They must write me. Let me know when we may expect them. I am not feeling well this morning so will not write more. Frank is well. When I see you I will tell you all I would like to. Write.

Zada.
(Zada (Martin) Rose (Sister)

Lois (Martin) Stevens

1377

Mrs. Lois M. Stevens
Harpursville, New York

Delevan
Aug 19, 1857

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Dear Sister,

Yours of June 10 & 15 with a draft for $48.33

We are in tolerable health. Thought I had summer complaint today. The children have suffered some in the same way still we eat all sorts of trash without descrimination or descrip tion. Myra is in delica e health and with no girl so my time is chiefly given to household and family duties. I still preach frequently and am waiting for an opening to pre ch more. That is to take charge of some church.

I sometimes think my call is run out. My desire for the work is not di inished but thiS is not all by which we ascertain the call to preach.

Bro. William C.PBatt, a late graduate of Rochester is here and will probably be settle as pastor He appears well and I trust will be a blessing to the church Bro Pratt knows Bro. Rose and says he has seen Clora

It is commencement day at Hamilton and I would that I were with them. It would be good o for me to be there but I do not repine becaus I cannot. Have never been back to Hamilton since I left 14 years ago. It is too bad.

I suppose you will have the girls with you during vacation. With all the weight of Polhymnian Presiden ial Dignity

I wish they were here and hope the day is not distant when they will teach my children a and others in the great and growing west.

Write soon. I don't hear anything from Frederick. Is it all settled up. Myra and children join in love for you and yours.

Fqrewell

Sanford.

October 4, 1855?
Hamilton

Dear Sisters at Home,

Betsey is writing to Harriet (Hattie) and says I must write to you so we can go to the office before the stage goes south. We have not purchased any ink yet which is my apology for scribbling with a pencil. We have at last found rooms, have got our carpet down and bed made up and it looks quite homelike. This morning we got our breakfast for the first. We have had only two meals since leaving home except for this breakfast, so you can imagine that we relished well.

We have here two good sized rooms. In one is our bed (out of which is a clothes press), the other is our kitchen. Water is very handy and on the whole think we are finely situated. All we need is contentment and a plenty of "the rocks." The rent is $30.00 a year and they furnish bedsteads and carpet for one room. We have had to buy a stove. Paid $14 without pipe or furniture, but the gentlemen of whom we rent furnish pipe and we shall not need much furniture. It is a very small stove not worth half as much as the one at home. "How is it that is not in Hamilton?" We paid $3.00 for a set of chairs second handed. Not as good as Irene's. When you move to Hamilton you better bring your furniture. If you can send a box by Albert, we should like to have you send that old chair cushion which was at the school house for a pillow. And that small one which I think is in a chair in Reuben's room as we have bought an old rocking chair which needs cushioning. The foot curtains on Irene's bedstead, the shovel and tongs, Clora's butter knife and fine comb, my old black Merino shawl. I must have my school money. Try to pursuade Hattie to come for it will be so much pleasanter to have her here. We are hoping Irene is well by this time. But if we knew it we should feel happier.

Lois must be careful of herself. I fear she is sick ere this. Let us know if any of you are sick.

Write soon.

Clora. (Clora Amanda Martin)

(The name Hattie has given me trouble. I have just satisfied myself that she was Harriet, sister of Albert and cousin of Clora Amanda Martin. PMB)

1394

Mr. Wm. O. Bancroft
Harpursville, N.Y.

Zion Hill
Amite Co. Miss.
Oct. 10, 1857

Friend Bancroft,

I take it you a e married -- have no clue to the name of the l dy you have taken to yourself. You speak of hard times. I notice in the papers the cities of N w York, New orleans etc, is very tight times with business men. I think the planters are experienceing very little of any inconvenience. In this regard I hink there is more stability in this country. It is a country of long credit and high interest (10%) but sure pay. There seems to be little suing for co lection or indeed for n any purpose. The rule seems to be if A man cant pay one year wait another until he turns off another crop. But they ussually pay up pretty well once a year. It is thought the tightness of money may keep down the price of cotton but I may keep the price of cotton down but there seems to be litte anxiety on this point. It is now from 16 to 17 cents and it is thought it will be higher before spring. There seems to be a general inclination among planters to keep back the most of theri crop from market at present thinking it will be higher tward spring. They are sending tO market only enough to supply the money they at present need. It is a short crop, about half the usual. There is sure to be a good sugar crop. I think you could safely expect a fall in sugar prices and molases and vica v rsq on cotton goods/ The south has given up Kansa to the north. The loss of confidence in the present administration is pretty general in the S uth. The desire for a separation of the Union increases. They thought last fall the Democratic party was going to svae them but they have given up on that idea. I notice antislaveryism is working its way south. Missoruri falters, Virginia shows signs of giving way. I understand there is a large abolition settlement in Western Georgia an antislavery paper published there and that the ssouth dare not divide it up into states or lay off new territories on it for fear of losing a part of it

I think if you can make up thebalance of that oak timber next year I will be pleased for you to do it. I would have you make 100 or so and will pay some of my debt about there with them. For instance J.A.Stevens, G Hokes, M.J.Mudge, etc. But do not mention this until you get ready to let them have the oaks because you do not want them coming to you about my business. I cansend you the monwy in Jan or Febr. Please inform me what I can depend upon as to this as soon as covenient. Kindest regards to your parents. How is Mr. Patrick getting along. Yours truly

J.A.Barlow.

Harpursville, Broome Co, N Y.

W.E. Martin

1394

October 14, 1857

Miss C. A. Martin
Hamilton

Dear Clora,

We have been looking for Brother Stevens and Lois and I have had great times dreaming of their coming. About given up looking for them. The first intimation we have had that Betsey was not at Hamilton, or of her having a board of commissioners to divide the farm was given by your letter which we received yesterday. Well I do not know that this is all perfectly right and kind for her to take this step without ever even dropping me a line about it, for I am of course of little consequence and never have had anything to say more than to acquiesce and take whatever funds has been said to be my share. Well now let me tell you about my dreaming. Lois wrote they were coming about the twelfth. So of course Mr. Rose was at the depot when we thought they would come and Mr. Rose came home without them much to my regret. But since I could not have a visit with them while awake, I improved my time while sleeping. I thought I asked Lois if Clora was to be teaching or attending school and she answered that you were married and I asked in surprise to whom and if you had done well. And she said yes if it was not that her husband was left-handed and a cripple and I was greatly grieved at this information and inquired if he were not able to labor. And she told me no, that he would never be able to support you. And she said, Clora always was a queer girl, and not very ambitious you know. And she married him through sympathy. Oh well, I said, what does he pretend to do? Fix plates for ambetypes, said Lois. Well, then I will get him a situation here to get right into business and it will not be so bad. I became so excited I waked up (all a dream). It seems from your letter that you are not married.

I suppose it would take a number of wicks to make as much light as the moon. Well now, Clora, I do not know but you are doing wrong and out of the path of duty you are thinking anything about jumping over the broom stick. I wish you to remember the example of Paul of Hannah and more and others and do not think I am wholly selfish, but I would like to have you live with us and make us happy with your presence. Clora forgive my nonsense. We are well. Jennie has been sick and this is the fourth week she has been out of school on that account but I hope will be able to go next week.

Yours as ever,
Zada.

Lois (Martin) Stevens, first wife of John Maynard Stevens.

Hill, Ocrober 14, 1857

Dear Children,

Yours came to hand today. Surprised us much with its profundity, wit, wishes etc. If scolding would do a any good I would let off a blast or two. It seems to me the case is hopeless as well as desperate. I had hoped to have one old maiden sister to spend her days with us, superintend our domestic matters and finally fall hier to our estate, But your intimations have blasted all these fondly cherrished hopes. I always thought a heap of Clora, new she wqs a tall sister, tall as a bean pole, but never supposed she would be tall enough to kiss the moon. But it seems that you are moon struck. So I suppose that you have been somewhere in the same neighborhood. But I put but litle confidence in what Albert said on that subject. If Bet is down near the pinacle it is a matter offact he could not come wihtin gun shot of the truth and he is in a fix or rather would like to be. But I have about all I want to do in the line of service which he intimates. Look what a fuss Irene is in and doubtless she will lay much of it to me, for doing just the same that she would have me do for and for Bet, (him) No no I shall keep my skirts clear of this blood id he contemplates committing matrim oney on a cousin . I will have no hand in his deeds. And you may just as well tell him so. And you need not tell him that I said so. Supposed I used to think him a fine yourg man when he was my pupil. Probably he has exposed to wrong influences at that time. Those now being removed and brought into other society have produced change. I hope you will not content yourself to go by moon light all your days. It is all borrowed light and cold at that. The sun is higher than the moon it is true but if you keep on going you will be a sinner and before you are out of your whoops and no girl should think of marrying till she has passed

I really had had it in my mind to send you a beautiful likness of Lois but if you are going to live in the moon it will be entirely too cold for it and shall defer the matter for the present. My health has not been very good for the last season and the prospect for its permament restoration is not very good, as long as my labor is what it is at present, I am thinking that I shall have to go on for a year or so but I shall make a few trials before adopting that course. Albert really thought he would scribble a few lines to his officially. Well I suppose his thoughts are so muchon the pinnacle to come down to terrestrial objects. (this letter is cross written and is almost unreadable) Abandoned reading further.

H . and Rose

Savery Hotel
October 21, 1857

Jane N. Bancroft
Politeness of J.D.B.

My Darling Wife,

I improve the first moment to inform you of my safe arrival once more in this great noisy, bustling city. It takes the first 24 hours to become accustomed to the tumult enough to take a calm sober thought. I had a very cold tedious ride over the hill to Binghamton although as much protected from the cold as I usually am in the winter. I shivered at times like the ague but thanks to a merciful providence I feel no ill effects from it now. I met J. B. King (Rev.) at ----------He sent his best regards to yourself and family. As smiling and jovial as usual. I should have enjoyed the ride down on the cars very much could I have had your own dear self by my side. As it was it seemed tiresome. Panics and pressures don't seem to make any difference in the appearance of things in the great city. Just as large crowds, just as much display of finery, just as much bustle and confusion. As I passed through the park this morning, the metropolitan police were out on parade. They were accompanied by beautiful music, brass band, only they used silver instruments. A woman shot a man with a pistol in open daylight on a public street in the Village of Port Jarvis yesterday. She justified herself by saying he had slandered her. She is now in jail awaiting the decision of physicians as to whether the wound will prove mortal. It was in the face taking out some of his teeth.

As this is the first letter I have written to you since I have had the privilege of addressing you as my wife and I am now writing it feeling very wearied and needing rest, if it is lacking anything you would wish I trust you will pardon imperfections. But taking the will for the deed, imagine it the most perfect letter ever written. I can fully realize

how precious you are to me and how necessary to my happiness when so many miles separate us. But I trust soon to meet you again, then the joy and happiness will amply compensate for the sad hours I have past since leaving you. My love to our parents, sister and friends, reserving all you need for yourself. I hope you are quietly sleeping while I am scribbling this, for it is after bedtime. I did not intend to write till morning but, fearing I could not sleep if I did not hold conversation with you first, I have written and now subscribe myself

Your loving husband,

Oscar

(Jane (Martin) Bancroft, (Wm. Oscar's first wife). Daughter of Harry Martin and cousin of Clora Amanda Martin, who will be his second wife. PMB)

Detroit
November 5, 1857

Beloved Friend Clora,

This beautiful morning finds me seated to converse with an absent and very dear friend. Perhaps you think I left rather unceremoniously when I bade farewell to Hamilton. I received a message from Uncle at Georgetown saying he wished me to take the stage that afternoon, which was Friday afternoon, and as soon as I could get my things in my satchel I started. Saturday my aunt took me to Fabius. Monday morning I took the omnibus, went to Apulian, where I took the cars and arrived at Syracuse Monday noon. Left for Rochester at two p.m. Changed cars for Lockport. Arrived there at 9 p.m. Cousin was at the depot waiting for me. Tuesday stayed at Lockport. Wednesday morning started for Niagara Falls. We remained there until one o'clock. Took the cars and arrived at Detroit River at 11 p.m. Took the boat and soon landed safe and sound in Detroit. Had a very pleasant journey and pleasant company until I took the omnibus at the depot to come to my aunt's where I now am. The omnibus was well filled when I started, but I was at last left alone, save the driver and the man on the step. At last he opened the door, came in and sat down on the opposite side a few moments, then planted himself at my side and was very sociable and pleasant. Yet I was suspicious of him and put my hand on my pocket for fear of losing my money. And well it was that I did for I caught him in the very act. While talking of the beautiful moonlight evening, I did not pretend to notice him, but moved along tightening my grasp as I did so, and found as often as I moved he moved also. When I had reached my destined place, he jumped out and offered to assist me. I thanked him and told him I needed none of his assistance. I rang the doorbell and stood and stood trembling until Mr. Johnesse came and opened the door. That was all the trouble I met with.

Yesterday I met with several of my South Field acquaintances. It really seems good to get back and meet old friends. I looked for father all day yesterday but was doomed to disappointment. I shall certainly expect to see him today. Aunt Maggie says I should not write all I know this time, but I am going to write till I stop. I have not eaten all those crackers you gave me. Never shall I forget all your kindness and that of your cousin. How is your patient? I presume attending the physiology lecture cured him immediately if not sooner. I am as happy as a lark. How I wish you were here to run around with Aunty and I for we are going up in the city. I presume you are busy enough with your studies. I meant to have called on you again before leaving Hamilton, but circumstances would not permit. I would write to Hattie did time permit. But it is as it is, and she must take the will for the deed. My health is quite good, still I feel somewhat tired, for I have been on the go ever since I ---------

(Hattie is a cousin of Clora's and a classmate in Hamilton Female Seminary. She is a sister of Albert who married Betsey Martin. Rev. Albert Martin and Hattie (Harriet) are brother and sister, children of Daniel Martin and cousins of Betsey Martin whom Albert married. PMB)

#43 285

Binghamton Nove 23, 1857

W,O.Bancroft, Esq.

Dear Sir, I send you this morning some of my circulars If you will please pace them ina conspicuous place in your store so persons will see and get them or pace them in the hands of persons wishing clothing you will greatly oblige, Yours respectfully

James E. Cooke.

C. Mason

Miss Clara Martin
Hamilton, Madison County , N.Y.

Cobsville Dec. 10, 1857

Dear Clara,

We have felth great anxiety about you since Albert and Hattie left. For we feared it would be very hard for you to do the work and study. And also that you would expose yourself to cold. Do not trynto do the washing. Hire Mrs. Kinsey? or letter her do it for spoiling the tub. Breaking hammer and so forth. Do not be so afraid of writing to your friends. I have been Ira's a good deal b t have had no opportunity to learn how you are getting along there. Cousin Ira is very sick and I have not much hope for his recovery. The doctor says he is better but he is still much lower thanany I havve taken care of before. You need not look for Albert and Hattie back at present. Probaly there will be some change soon. Either he will gain so we can see it or he will be gone. In either case they will probably com back. I do not see any prospect of comming. I think it will necessary for me to go Hornellsville and intend to do so as soon as Ira is better. We have heard no more from the eastern m n. Leroy has drawn the hay off the hill farm after he had been told not to do so and we will no doubt have some trouble with him Irene and Fred justify him. We have proposed to settle it by leqving it to bretheren in the church, but he has not consented to do so yet. I told him the other day that he must settle soon and make restitution and try to be honest or ther could not be between him and me friendship or Christian fellowship. I talked plainly and calmly with him and he seemed to mellow but his folks are at him again and what he will do I cannot tell. Don't worry bu only pray that we will be directed todo right.

I have been at Iras, he died last night at 10 oclock

Betsy.

Hornellsville
December 13, 1857

Miss C. A. Martin
Hamilton Female Seminary
Hamilton, N. Y.

Dear Clora,

We have been looking for a letter for some days past from your place, but have received no news from our little sister and cousin. Perhaps you think your letters will be more welcome for thus resembling "angel's visits - few and far between." But I tell you for earnest I do not like to be treated in this manner. Betsey wrote me a week ago that she meant to come and see me in a few weeks, but I have seen nothing of her. Lois wrote the same in the fall and then disappointed me. And I looked for Clora until I heard she had gone to Hamilton. I suppose all of you have intended to obey the injunction of scripture to do unto others as you wish them to do unto you. Hence you need none of you expect I shall trouble you with a visit. We yet occupy the house we did when we first came here, although we have talked some of trying to get a warmer one. Mr. Rose has been quite out of health for two weeks past and was unable to preach last Sabbath but has gone to meeting today. He has had a number of invitations to visit a number of other churches but has accepted none of them and will not until the matter of our leaving or staying here is decided. The church is in arrears some $300 of this year's salary, and three weeks more will make out the year and will tell the tale whether we can be supported or not. The church feels their poverty. Are anxious to have us stay and will make every effort to raise our support. May God help them and direct us.

Mary Cone a dear sweet girl, baptized in the fall, has come to board with us and go to school. Jane has

been unable to go most of the time but is recovering from her cold. I think we shall let her go tomorrow. My own health is good. Frank is well and perched on my lap, as is usual when I am trying to write, and you must lay all crooked marks to him. More before long.

Your sister,

Zada.

Dec. 15, 1857

Hamilton Female Seminary
Eurodelphian Society
Semi-annual public meeting
Clora Martin geve a musical number, "Stray Leaf "

Nov. 26, 1857

Grand Levee, at Boston, Mass
tickets $1.00

Wm.O.Bancroft and W,E,Martin associated in business.

1894

Harpursville
Dec. 18 1857

My Dear Lucy,

Will you please to pardon my remissness in duty and ~~let and~~ let me still be numbered on your list of friends. Be assured that my neglect has not been owing to forgetfulness of indifference but my time has been so fully employed that I found not time for writing and prehaps I should not have begon this evening if Oscar had not prompted me to duty by bringing up his letter for me to finish it. He has written of cousin Ira's death, and what a great bereavement it is to his wife and these six children altho some are too young to realize their loss now a loss that can never be restored to them in this world, the protection and counsel of a fine father. When Albert told him he could not live he said what will become of my family. Albert replied that the Lord will take care of them. Then he said, O! He will won't he and he seemed perfectly resigned to the will of God.

I hope you have a pleasant school and a good home in Deposit this winter. Shall we not see you here again until spring. But spring will soon come

Recent tidings from the West indicate that it is a goodly land and if your lot should ever be cast there I would still rejoice in having so true a friend even though she were in the far west.

Ma came from Samuels last Tuesday and said Laura and the babe are were getting along quite well. She had been with her tend ays.

Lucy, I wish you would write to me as often as you can consistently and not wait for me to write. I am so glad to hear of your welfare though I do not doubt but that your time is all occupied

Your sincere friend
Jane M. Bancroft.

December 20, 1857

Lines suggested by the death of cousin Ira Martin Dec. 14, 1857

Breath soft my lyre, awake thy gentle strain,
A soul this world of care and pain,
Triumphant unseen spirit fill the room,
They come to bear him to his glorious home.

High heaves his breast, the de th sweat 8s on his brow,
But smiles light up his features even now.
He 8s going soon his God and King to see,
His weary spirits struggling to be free;

Ah, in death thou hast no sting to fear,
And gloomy grave, thou are not victor here;
Beyond thy fleeting realm there is a rest,
Prepared for all, the blood washed and the best.

One ling ring look he casts, to bid farewell,
To friends and e rth, where he'll no longer dwell!
Then fainter, we ker, grows his trembling bresth,
Tis done, he sweetly falls in death.

Oh, weep not stricken friends, though he was dear,
Tis selfishness that prompts the falling tear.
The Wido's God your lonely steps shall gytide.
And for the fatherless we will provide.

By faith look up, behold him enter heaven,
Eternal rest to ransomed spirits given,
What rapture thrills through all that glorious dome,
A soul is freed , a saint arri ved at home.

Another voice now swells the angelic choir,
Another hand now strikes a hea venlylyre.
Me thi ks will be the theme f all their lays,
The love of God, the great Redeemers praise.

Written after his wifes death a year later. 13 January 1858

And now she too is gone, Ah, happy fate,
She8s gone to m et her love at Heavens gate.
Not long her life wwas spared to weep alone,
Her Heavenly faiher called, "Lonely child come home

Thrice glorious pair, so e rly called to rest,
Where toil and care shall never more molest.
Your liv es were brief but spent ij doing good
Twas your delight to make the needy glad

We will no grieve that you art gone so soon,
By strive with m ght the pearl of price to win,
That when we too are done with pain and care
Will join you and your matchless glory there.

Clora Amand a Martin (they left four children ?

Miss Betsey Martin
Harpursville, Broome Co, N.Y.

#74
Wednesday eve.
Dec. 21, 1857

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Dear Girls,

I have been delaying writing hoping that I should se see you soon. But I beginning to think I will be leet allone the rest of the winter. I recieved Betseys letter today tellingus that cousinIra is gone from this world of care. And Oh, is it not sweet to think he has entered upon that glorious rest which shall never be disturbed. I had not expected such news for I supposed he was getting better. By what Warren wrote I supposed he was out of danger. What a lonely desolate family he leaves. Poor fatherless boys. They will have toface the cold world alone. Without a father to guide and cousel. But he set a good example in life and I trust they will not forget. I presume you have had some anziety aboutthow we we getalong here all alone. The first day or two I was very lonesome. But Mr. Kemseu and Mary hav been very kind. We live almost like one family. I hardly think of loneliness now. Kate Miss Beebe, Mrs . Brown and Hannah have come and lodged with me occasionally. The principle rouble is that I have almost too much company to have my lessons first rate. All want to be kind and come to see me now that I am alone. This afternoon Mr Kemsey made a tea party, invited Messrs Daugharty Pope, Downey, anf simmons and Miss Bennett the dress maker. Harry and myself. It is the first time I have s seen Mr. Daugharty since Hattie left. It has seemed strange to have him stay away so long. I would not invite him to our public meeting just because he would not come and see me. You do not know how much you lost by not being here for our public meeting. It is said it is the best meeting held at the Seminary. I do not know as this is true at least I can say it was good, at least as to my performance. I will send the scheeme of Hamilton female seminary You see we are getting most as big as the "Hillites. We can have schemes as well as they. I have not been to school this week. Busy preparing my paper. Monday I washed and today made bread and baked for he first time since Hattie left. Tomorrow I intend to goto school again. How glad I shall be when Albert and Hattie get back. I cant more than half study now. What do you mean when you say you must go to Hornellsville. I am afraid you will regret it if you do not go To Hamilton. Mr. Hartshorns folks have moved up on Madison street. It seems very singular not to have Hanna Hear, where I can run and see her several times a day. Mr. Kemsey has returned and it is getting late, I must retire. To my cold nest. To Betsey, Hattie and good Folks

Miss Clara A Martin.

Thursday. Well and in fine spirits. Wish you could send me a pair of morocco boots by Albert when he comes. Tell Irene to write.

An incomplete love letter from Oscar to Clora written in late 1857/8

----that such dear ties can be so cruelly sundered, yet to love congenial spirits is a necessity with me. You speak of advice from kind friends, I too have had advice from kind friends (not relatives) that it was duty or at least best for me to seek in the love of a worthy companion, a compensation for my loss. I thought little of the advice at first although I knew kt was kindly meant. In first commencing this correspondence I thought a sympathizing friend (which I know you to be) and a congenial spirit (which I thought you possessed) and I have not been disappointed; although perhaps I could have wished, that I had not become sensible of the love I feel for you quite so sooon, yet feeling it, it was not in my nature to hide it from you. It has been a thought in my prayers for many days; that kf God pleased me to love you and granted me the pleasant assurance that I was beloved in return;, the He would not let our earthly love to inter ere with or weaken our love for Jesus, but that my love for Him might be increased from pure gratitude that he had given me so much of happiness here. I think that our beloved Missionary, Judson, loved each of his wives with pure unselfish which was fully returned by each. You did not state whether you had determined to follow the advice so kindly given and refrained from loving so unworthy an object as I, but you perceive that I have presumed upon your kindness, to set before you some of the dearest desires of my heart. Perhaps I am better acquainted with you, than you thibk, I have some acwuaintance with you from your letters but I became more intimately acquainted with you through my dear wife, to what purpose I then knew not but "God moves in a mysterious way". I know I am selfish but I do so desire long letters from you that if you could devote the time for my benefit I should be very grateful. I can sympathise with you at your weariness at the close of the days and the weeks school. Altho, I am not very old now, yet when I was yet much younger, I went into a district to teach a winters school (my first) where I had never seen an individual, not even the trustees (as the school was obtained for me by a friend, I being at the time away at school. You will not wonder that I at times counted the days that would intervene before the completion of my task.

Wednesday evening, I have been endeavoring to devote an hour every evening before retiring to rest to my correspomdence which is now sadly in arrears. But being very busy about these days, I perceive that my writing shows maany marks of weariness and fatigue. If I have written anything amiss please pardon and inform that I may correct or explain.

Sabbath morn, I had thought to have written considerable more from this enclosure, but unlooked for circumstances have disappointed my calculations and I must abruptly close here. I feel that I have done myself very poor justice in this letter. But trusting myself and it to your charity I subscribe myself if you thus wish it, while life remains,

Yours wholly

Oscar.

to Clora.

Thursday
1857/58?

Dearest An opportunity is afforded for me to go over on the Hill to spend the remainder of the week which I avail myself of rather reluctantly as it will prevent my attending the"sing" Friday eve, but think on the whole "it is best!" Accept once more the assurance of my warmest love. Excuse haste.

Your own Clora

An Acrostic.

Cheerfully serve the Lord most High.
L ove him who dwells above the sky.
O ne'er foresake a faithful friend
R emember Him till life shall end;
A nd He has promised and will fulfill,

A nd well perform His Righteous will.
M and kind will save in His own way
A nd His justice prove on Judgement day
R deeming grace then ever sing
T hrough Jesus our most Glorious King
I nfinite love with mercy joined
N ow frees from guilt the human mind.

Sad heavy heart behind, I would write much more but time forbids, Your verses were excellent Was glad to hear that cousin Lois and Betsey were able to take their journey. Sorry you did not visit dear Janes room. I have visited it every day, since her death, when at home, for secret communion with our God. Remember me, pray for me, and please write soon,

Yours truly
Oscar.

Clara A. Martin

South Field
January 3, 1858

Miss Clora Martin

My very dear friend,

Please pardon my unintentional neglect in not replying to your truly welcome message sooner. Think not for one moment that I have forgotten you. For it would be impossible to forget so dear a friend. I will endeavor in a measure to excape the censure you may have thought due me by giving you a lengthy epistle.

I would wish you a merry Christmas were it not too late. As is I will wish you a happy New Year. Please let me know how pleasantly you spent both Christmas and New Years. Christmas I enjoyed very well indeed. In the evening had the pleasure of enjoying a fine sleigh ride. New Years cousin was here from Walled Lake and we went to Birmingham and spent a very pleasant evening. I thought of several times and wished in vain for your company. I would like very much to visit Hamilton again and just as well would I like to receive a visit from you that I might repay you for some of the numerous kindnesses that I received from you during my stay at Hamilton. Then you think I left Hamilton rather unceremoniously, do you? I can but acknowledge it to be the case. Uncle Babcock sent me word by the stage driver to come to Georgetown that day. It was late in the forenoon when I received the message and I was to leave in the afternoon stage or I should have called on you again.

I received a letter from Miss Sophy L. Jackson the other day. She is very happy in her southern home and says she is the picture of good health. Is it not pleasing to hear such good news from one who has been afflicted with ill health for years?

She also says she think of visiting Hamilton when warm weather comes. And then come west and, among her other friendly

Visits, I am to expect one, and not only expect one, but receive one in reality. Now just say you will accompany her and I promise you will be greeted with a warm reception. We will meet you at Detroit. I have not been to Farmington yet and have not seen your relatives yet. But am in hopes of seeing them and deliver your message before long. Traveling is not very good at present and we are contented to be at home most of the time. That, however, is not the greatest reason for my staying at home. Another reason is that I am as happy here as elsewhere and we have ten in the family. I have to take charge of the work and am busy most of the time. Sisters are both attending school. Ma's health continues quite poor. She is able to do but little and is so ambitious that when she undertakes to work she goes beyond her strength and is then worse than before.

She says she does not see how she could possibly get along without me now. It has done me good to work. At least I am inclined to think so, for my health is very good indeed.

Dearest Clora I thank for your friendly warning and advice and will endeavor to profit thereby. Permit me, if you please, to have the same privilege. Beware of the D.K.B.s and see that you don't get entangled in the web of love. Guess why? I fear there will be danger of it if it is not the case already. I know I have trampled your advice under foot in a measure. For you told me to be aware of how I fell in love with anybody and I have fallen in love a great while ago and now do wish the object my affections were placed upon were a friend of yours. If so, I will tell you who it is. It is your own dear self. I am going to love you. Do you feel bad? How can I help it?

I thank you for your kind invitation to contibute a stray leaf to our sister "Eurodelphia" (student publication). Gladly would I have done so had time permitted. Please call me

Sarah and excuse me for not addressing you as Miss Martin. It seems like old friends when we do not "Miss" to one. You are my sister Clora. The cord of friendship that binds us through "Eurodelphia" together binds us in sisterly love. I have heard nothing about the Hamilton affairs for a long time and I want you to be kind enough to tell me all the news when you write.

Nearly all have retired and the rest are telling me I had better finish writing another time. I but fear I must write now. I believe I have not made any enquiries concerning your sister. Has she returned to Hamilton and how is her health? Please give my love to little Charley. Please remember me to Mr. Brown when you see him, for he was very kind to me. Yes, I can see your cousin laugh as he always used to if he could say something about him to me. I love to see people enjoy themselves and it is just as well as if I had said something to make him weep. You say he could not attend the public meeting because I was not there. Poor fellow, where was his dearest? I hope he will not deprive himself of so much pleasure for my sake. Please excuse this nonsensical spasm and write soon to your friend. Love to all.

Sarah M. Jeffery

St. Augustine, E. Florida
February 8, 1858

W. O. Bancroft, Esq.

Dear Cousin,

Your kind note of November 10 ought not to have gone so long unanswered. But I have involved myself in so many obligations in the way of correspondence that I begin to dispair of ever discharging them.

I should have been glad to have received the call you were kind enough to design for me at your last visit to New York. My trip to this place has involved the sundering of many precious ties and the discontinuance of many pleasant relationships. I doubt whether I ever received any measure forced on me by providence with more dread and yet perhaps in none has God's goodness to me been more marked. The climate of St. Augustine is just what invalids of clans to which I belong seek from all parts of the Union and as I was at a loss to know which way to turn my gracious Lord opened the way to me to come to the very place adapted above almost all others to my improvement in health. And made the most excellent people ready to receive me with hearts as warm as heat under a southern sun. I would gratefully accept the regards my new cousin commissioned you to send me and would in return profer my most earnest wishes for her long continued happiness in the new relation into which God has placed her.

I was interrupted in the midst of that last sentence by a fellow boarder who in a conversation of about an hour (making it now 10 p.m.) discerned with me the hideous features of slavery as we see it here. We agreed that its effect upon the white race is enough to condemn it, root and branch, were the interest of the subject race of no moment whatever.

We do not however see the system as it is shown in plantation life. There are no plantations immediately about

us and we see nothing of the driver's whip, etc. of which so much is heard in the North.

Nevertheless, as abominable as the institution is, it is in its origin and in its present workings there is no denying that God has made it the instrument of everlasting good to thousands of the poor Africans and their descendants. I feel, too, that while we may abhor the principles on which the system stands we should exercize the largest charity toward those who in God's providence are in the position of masters. I must say that if all the masters in the South were to leave it to me today what they were to do with their slaves I should be sorely puzzled to say. Let me leave the whole matter to him who is the governor among the nations, only praying he will keep us as a people from falling in less with that which at best is a scourge and a prolific source of evil.

Remember me to your father and mother. Some conversions. Remember us in prayer.

E. P. Crane

#1886

Febr 10, 1858

Indenture between
Lewis Alexander and Alvira his wife of Colesville
and Annis B. Shiffer

$260.00

One acre of land south of Belden creek

Indenture 10 Feb 1858 300

Annis B. ?Shiffer for 260 dollars
Near Hapursville begining on Belden Brook on a line between Edwin Northrup and Samuel Badger to the New Ohio Road one acre

Duplicate

Roseboom
February 26, 1858

William Oscar Bancroft
Harpursville

Dear Brother and Sister,

Your very welcome letter was received this morning. Brother Rose arrived this p.m. at 4. Elder Smith came also to tea. Is a very stormy day and they are both here. This afternoon is our Covenant meeting and meeting this evening. I must go to get dinner.

March 4. My mind has been so absorbed with things here that I have not found any time to write when the study was not occupied. Brother Rose is still here. He has preached every evening. We have had two meetings in the afternoon for prayer and inquiry which were well attended. Several have requested prayers. But after all now are unwilling to make any move, weep during meeting or when spoken to personally and here remain. Today was appointed as a day of feasting and prayer. We met at ten and stayed till nearly two o'clock. Now some 5 or 6 are going from house to house. I cannot give you much idea of our meeting and will only say of the truth, God was there and such a meeting I have never before enjoyed. Some of the middle-aged men who have been stout-hearted are feeling deeply whether they will yield to the spirit, God only knows. I have been strengthened to talk plainly to Mrs. Granger. At first she treated me scornfully. But when I told her how I had regarded her as a mother and had feared to speak to her on this great subject she was moved. Mrs. Antadel has spoken once. Is about giving up her old hope and seems anxious to have a better base on the Rock. Elder Smith has

been down twice and we expect him this evening again. Albert is losing flesh. He feels so intensely that he has no relish for food. Two nights has not slept at all. Every night he is wakeful more or less pleading for the prosperity of Zion. I have been reading some tracts which I feel it duty to go out and circulate before meeting, asking the blessing of God to attend them. No more now. Do pray for Lodi.

Saturday a.m. We had a large congregation last night. Pharcellus Church D.D. was here and preached. Will be back to dinner. I was not very well last night and not as prepared for getting tea as sometimes, but fortunately was not at all disconcerted and even had the boldness to tell him I believed he had a Christian heart. If so he would be contented with our humble fare. Hinted that if he had not it was plenty good enough for him. You know how much I love to work with strangers looking on. If they can get along I can. I am feeling well again this morning. The people were taken up with the novelty of a new speaker. Although we had a smart sermon I feared the impression was not as good as usual. May the Lord grant that it may work for his glory. We have meeting this afternoon at 2 o'clock. Albert and Mr. Rose are out calling for religious conversation. Excuse haste and write soon. Ironing and dinner demand my attention.

Betsey

We have received nothing from any of the rest of the Colesville people since we were there. Has Mr. Bunk paid yet? Mrs. A. rests on an old hope but seems to have the right spirit. Monday my washing is out. I sit down to say we are all well. Had a good meeting yesterday but are somewhat disheartened. I have said they have attained hope. Mrs. Ansdell came forward last night. Wants to be a Christian. Elder Smith is coming in.

(An essay from the Female Seminary) March 6, 1858

Living and Loving

Life and love are coexistant. They had their birth in Eden, and did they exist now, in all their pristine glory, earth would be one blissful paradise. But alas! Sin has marred their primitive beauty. Dissolution is mingled with life and no earthly love is exempt from selfishness. The first breath that heaved the breast of Adam was filled with love and gratitude to his creator, alone akin to that which angels feel. No mixture of selfishness was there, but his whole soul flowed out and gained new purity from its union with its almighty maker. And when he awoke from his deep sleep mortal cannot imagine the pure and ardent affection that filled his bosom for the fragile being by his side, bone of his bone, flesh of his flesh, formed to be his constant companion and helpmeet. But mark the change. The first sin filled him with fear. There was no longer perfect love. He was ashamed to meet his God and spoke of his wife with contempt. Then the awful sentence, "Dust thou art and to dust returneth" issued from the lips of the almighty, and they were driven in shame and disgrace from Eden, no longer to know perfect bliss on earth and entailing misery on all their posterity. But God whose name is Love in his great mercy did not drive out every spark of affection. There is a sympathetic tie that binds human hearts together which fallen man calls love. Though it is hardly worthy of the name it is a glorious remnant of former purity. Imagine for a moment what life would be without this angel visitant, a dark gloomy desert without an oasis, or ought to cheer the way-worn traveler. There would be no churches, no neighborhoods, no families, mankind having no regard for each other. Avarice and crime would walk at noonday and it is impossible

to envision the misery which would ensue. But while we have the influence of love, earth seems a place midway twixt ecstatic bliss and untold misery. Enough of happiness in treading virtue's paths to encourage us therein and give us a foretaste of heaven and enough of sorrow while going in the way of vice to warn us of the dark perdition in which this course of life must end. The purely selfish and worldly-minded man knows nothing of this holy feeling, but just in proportion as the heart is pure will the affection which wells up from it approximate toward the divine. The little child, before it has tasted sin, feels an affection for its parents, purer by far than after it has rolled its delusive pleasures like a sweet morsel under its tongue, yet even then the sin of Adam rests upon him. Man must learn to love his maker and live the new life in him, ere he can taste the full enjoyment of earthly love. The good and worthy, while their heart is open to love all, the virtuous and noble cannot fail of being esteemed in return. No higher mark of worth do I crave on earth than to be loved by all and let no more flattering epitaphs grace the marble slab which marks my last resting place than this, in life she was loved.

(In a woman's hand, possibly
Clora)

Hamilton
March 8, 1858

Miss Clora Martin
Colesville

My dear Clora,

I have thought of you almost every day since you left school, and my delay in answering your letter has not been for want of sympathy in your afflictions. I have learned the cause of your absence from school before the arrival of your letter. I have missed you daily and all your teachers have spoken of you with much affection. I felt deeply sorry for you when I learned the sad circumstances under which you were called home. I have heard several times from you by means of others and have not had such encouraging intelligence from your sister as I had hoped. Our Father has sent on you very sore affliction, but in them all he remembers mercy. I have known from experience the great blessings of sorrow, and thank God I have been afflicted. I know yours will be the same experience, for all things work together for good to the children of God. My earnest prayer to God for you is that as your day so may your strength be and by his spirit he will sanctify you wholly. You can say in all things, not my will but thine be done. What a blessed thing it is at such times to feel that a Saviour love and sympathy is yours and that the arm of omnipotence supports you. I am anxious to hear from you again to know how your sister and other friends now are. And if it is not asking too much, when you can spare a few moments may I have a line from you again. I have been hoping to have you with us again and still hope we may before very long. School closed last Tuesday. We have now vacation but will soon have to resume duty again. Many of the best scholars who have been with us this term will not return next. A number of them expect to teach in the summer. I

shall miss them very much. I could hardly be resigned to their leaving. Mr. and Mrs. Buell wish me to send their kind regards and sympathy. We hope to have you with us again. I pray God may spare your sister, although it seems she was brought down to the valley of the shadow of death. My kindest regards to all your friends. I shall be glad to hear from you soon.

Your ever affectionate friend and teacher,
M. L. Wallace

(The writer refers to the death of Jane (Martin) Bancroft, Oscar's first wife, and Oscar has turned to Clora and she is responding to him!

Her father died some two years before and the settlement of his estate is disturbing the family. Rev. S. S. Martin and Zada are urging this settlement for they need the money. This is a trying time for the Martins. PMB)

Hamilton
March 17, 1858 (68?)

Miss Clora Martin
Harpursville, N. Y.

Ever Dear Friend,

Today is the first of the string term. Only 40 scholars this morning. It seemed like old times to see Miss Manchester back. Helen Lord is not going to return.

I was sick with quinse about 3 weeks before school closed and was not able to enter again. I only heard the Jr's read their essays. They were very good.

Veronia Stone or Betsey Parker are not coming back this quarter. Miss Granger went away before the last quarter closed and is not coming back.

Clora I must tell you the news. Myra Simmons was married to Mr. Linscott yesterday and started for Illinois. He was a student here last summer.

Mr. H. and Miss Spencer do not speak with one another. I heard she invited him to go somewhere and he did not go. After that she did not recognize him.

Kay and Miss L. Amarieaux do not agree as well as they used to. I would tell you the reason if I were at liberty. I think they will be good friends again. He has been with Miss Reed since a week ago last night. I called on her with him. He is taking music lessons from her.

Linard Briggs was my company at the Jr. Exhibition. I went to one lecture with Richardson. He has invited me out several times but I have always had some excuse. Once with Mr. Allen. He calls quite often. Yet I have not fallen in love with anyone. Mr. T. has waited on Sarah Williams until quite recently, he has a room and does not go out anywhere. I met him today for the first time in three weeks. He looked rather cross (you know that is nothing for him). I have strange thoughts sometimes.

My prayer to the heavenly father is that he be led to walk in that true path which leads to life everlasting.

Dear Clora, I hope you will write often. I cannot tell you how much pleasure I take in reading your letters.

My visit to Lebanon was very pleasant yet sad, as I saw familiar faces, brothers and sisters in the church and all speaking of my dear father. It seemed that my heart was near bursting.

Clora, what could we do without our blessed Saviour in times of affliction?

Hannah

Albany
March 20, 1858

W. E. Martin
Harpursville, N. Y.

Mr. Martin:

I have received yours and in return send you check for $7.56 which you can get the money on. You have my thanks for names sent. Broome County is almost sure to have two members of assembly next year or next winter. We have a majority report from the committee in our favor. The bill giving Broome County two members will be considered in the committee of the whole next Thursday evening. The general impression is that our claim cannot be successfully resisted. Broome County must be heard here. How did old Sanford do at the town meeting? I was home then and we had a glorious time having fairly whipped out bogus Democracy. My opinion is that the Democratic Party of the present day is done in as the saying is, or rather going down for corruption. Always has a downward tendency. Truth is mighty and will prevail. I believe in this, hence have all confidence in the success of the Republican Party.

J. S. Palmer

Southfield
March 21, 1858

Dear Clora, (Clora A. Martin)

My beloved friend Clora I have had a rough ride this morning to church today and when on my way home was caught in a hail storm as there is no preaching this afternoon at either church I am again elected to hold converse with absent and much loved friends. You dear Clora are one of my most loved friends. When I was in trouble and dark clouds hovered over me I have found my way to your room and though I did not always let you know how I felt the moment I saw you all appeared like sunshine for you were always so happy and perhaps I might have been had I been as good as I always thought you to be. I feel that I have been indebted to you for a large portion of my happiness for you were the means of my goings as much as I did. Perhaps if you know you do not at first think how it was. I do not know whether I ever told you what little petty trials Ihad at anunt's. Some of them you must of course know. Pa and Ma did not know the half and as it is now past I try to number it with things that were. I met you one evening at the Baptist donation and you proved yourself to be a friend. Up to that time Aunt had tried in every way in her power to prevent my going in company, and tried her best that evening to pursuade me to stay home. But I disobeyed her and went. I felt under no obligation to her and after reflecting concluded to go and have never had reason to repent that I did. From that

time there was a change and I found many kind friends and you were among the choicest. Ever will I love you for it. Yes dear Clora you may have my old red head as soon as I can get to the dity and have it transfered. Don't forget to send yours when you can have it taken, or I shall be ----------
I am very sorry to hear that your sister Betsy is so very ill and hope her life may be spared. And she may be the means of accomplishing much good. Please remember me to her. I often think of her.

Dear Clora I feel that I can truly sympathize with you and realize your anxiety when placed in the sickroom. Ma was taken sick the fourth of February with typhus fever. The fever continued a week without any cessation, then for a day she lay perfectly helpless. I had to watch her every moment and give her stimulants. Rubbing her to keep her from dropping away. She was then attacked by inflammation of the lungs. For two weeks we did not expect she could live from one day to another. She had a hard cough and her lungs discharged a bloody matter very freely. Her left lung did not perform its office and a part ofit seemed entirely gone. She is better now and sits up considerable. For two weeks I was over her night and day. No one could lift or turn her save Pa and I. He was so afflicted with "job comforters" that he had to have me do it alone. She called each of us to bedside one morning to bid us farewell for she thought she was going to die. A kind Providence has spared her life and we are truly thankful that she is as well as she is. She is a mere skeleton. Her dresses will nearly reach twice around her.

Your true friend,
Sarah Jefferey

Write soon. You told me in my last letter that I need not be particular about my writing. Remember me to your cousin Hattie.

At Sister Alvira's
April 7, 1858

William Oscar Bancroft

Afflicted Cousin,

Most gladly would I offer a word of consolation to your sad bleeding heart, but I am sensible of my inability to do this. When God afflicts his children his grace alone can bind up the wound and pour in the oil of consolation, while all that mortals can say sometimes seems only to open the wound afresh. We have the sweet assurance that the Judge of all the earth will do right; that he will not afflict us above what we are able to bear and this he does not willingly but for our eternal good. Be assured you have my heartfelt sympathy. No one can appreciate your loss better than myself. One of the earth's choicest spirits for a short few months gladdened your heart and home with her pleasant smile and cheerful tone. And then as though her earthly mission were accomplished she soared to a more congenial clime. Jane was my firm and faithful friend. We had learned to love each other in our very infancy, in childhood we shared each other's sports, and in later years many pleasant hours we have spent in talking of our hopes and future plans. It seems like a dream sometimes that she is gone, and then when the painful truth dawns upon me that it is true, I cannot restrain my tears. Yet when I know that the reward of the righteous is hers and she is far happier than it would be possible for us to make her, can we wish her back? "I dare not trust my heart the dear delight. Seems so to be desired, perhaps I might." Sometimes I seem to hear the whispering of her gentle spirit calling me heavenward. And I fain would leave this world of sin and go to join her in the land of the blessed. But when I think how little good I have accomplished, I tremble lest I am not fitted for that happy place.

The disappointments of the past winter have I think learned me a useful lesson. We are constantly reminded how weak are the plans formed by short sighted mortals, and how easily frustrated by infinite wisdom. This is ordered doubtless that we may see where our dependance is and be led to place our trust in God, our rock and our fortress, rather than in an arm of flesh. We should not grow weary of life but rather weary of sin and every affliction. Dispensation of providence should lead us to be more faithful in our master's cause.

Do not allow yourself to be troubled by the foolish gossiping of mischief makers. I do not know to what you allude. But I think when we are conscious of having done right we need not care although our actions and motives may be misjudged. We are apt to receive little sympathy from the careless and heartless world when we most need it. You may certainly claim me as a friend. I have esteemed you as such and most cheerfully will I comply with your request should you think best to continue correspondence. It would be contrary to my nature should I deal otherwise than frankly with you. Be assured you have my feeble prayers and I would ask you to remember me at the throne of grace for I feel I need more patience under trials and disappointments. When "dark hours come on, look aloft, tis there you will find solace."

Your unworthy friend,
C. A. Martin

1367

April 16, 1858
Hornellsville

Mrs. J.M.Stevens
Harpursville, N.Y

Dear Home Friends,

Why dont you write? I am getting v ry impatient We are well as usual with an exception of a constant pain in my head and I sometime s think I am going to have inflamation inmy head. You know mother used be troubled with it.

What I want to hear most from home is whether there can be any money raisee for me. Can Fred collect that Wiley note. Or have you concluded to buy my share in the homeestate. Here it is past the middle of the month and 100 dollas is due on this place the first of my and I want to know whether I can depend on any money from that quarter. AndIf not I shall have to look for another. I should think you ought to let me know and ought to have done before this, whether anything was going to be done about it.

Our babe grows finely. He will hold his head up alone and bear his weight on his feet. if we would let him. But I have not much time to write. I must hawten to get ready to go up town and do some shopping.

Yours truly
Zada.

Harpursville
April 26, 1858

Clora A. Martin

Dear Cousin,

Your welcome letter of the 7th instant was forwarded to me while in New York, and the perusal of it afforded me a good deal of comfort. I need much more of that to make my stay in this world of trouble bearable. The genuine sympathy expressed by my kind friends does me much good, but there are times when it all seems as naught, when I could lay me down and die, were I assured that my work and duties were done. Would that I could feel more like the poet.

"This life is to me at best
  But a port in which to rest.
Friends the truest early die.
  Hope the fondest, soonest fly.
Summer blossoms soon decay.
  Gather rosebuds while you may.

Not for others toil and keep,
  By yourself the harvest reap.
Lay not up a golden store
  To be spent when you are no more.
For Nature's writing seems to say
  "Gather rosebuds while you may."

Gather wisdom, truth sublime,
  Fill your soul with lofty rhyme.
Pluck life's flowers in the bloom,
  Exhaling all their sweet perfume.
Bask at once in pleasure's ray,
  Gather rosebuds while you may.

Time is short, but unto those
  Who battle bravely with life's woes,

As time flies -- to them is given
On his wings to fly to heaven.
Then let us cast all fear away
And gather rosebuds while we may."

There may be rosebuds in the future, even for some the thorns alone are visible now. The sad truth is ever present that Jane is gone, and I am left alone. Trusting you will pardon the egotism I would speak freely. A few years ago I would little have thought I could ever have become so attached to an earthly creature, yet my inmost nature longed for love, friendship, sympathy; still ever cautious, retiring, fearing to trust lest I be deceived. I little knew its power, until called out by one in whom I had the most perfect confidence. The poet Young expresses my feelings.

"Friendship, the means of wisdom, richly given,
The precious end which makes our wisdom wise.
Nature in zeal for human amity,
Denies or damps an undivided joy."

(There is more poetry.)

I hope Cousin Betsey felt well paid for coming over to meeting yesterday. How grateful we should all be to see her again, able to enjoy such privileges. I have a great deal to be grateful for, but I do lose sight of it very often. The last five weeks have seemed the longest I have ever known. It is difficult for me to believe evidence of the fact that only so short a time has elapsed since the dear one was taken hence. Pardon me for quoting Dr. Young again.

"Call her not back!
We know that she is singing,
Where anthems loud are ringing
To God the King of Kings.
There our dear Jennie sings.
Call her not back."

My reason teaches me that the supreme ruler of the universe doeth right; that my loss is her gain. But oh, how my poor selfish heart rebels. I want her here. But she can return to us never. Could I have the blessed assurance that my work was done in this world, that I was prepared to go, how gladly would I lay down the burden of this life. Yet, while listening to Elder R's sermon yesterday, it seemed as though some new courage was given to bear life's burdens a little longer. I would like to be just what God would have me be could I have wisdom to know what and where my duty lies.

I hope I shall not trespass upon your kindness and patience too much, but your presence yesterday called up so many thoughts that I would gladly have sat down and conversed with you for hours, but as this could not be I must avail of your kind permission and write. I feel grateful to you for your friendship and for consenting to listen to the complaining of my wounded heart and if it is not in my power to repay your kindness you will be repaid if not in this world, in the next. I am not usually troubled by the thoughtless (if not unfeeling) mischief makers and perhaps I should not have written you about it, for I don't often trouble my friends with such things. But when members of the church by positive misrepresentation seek to create ill feeling between myself and friends and my pastor, I think I am excusable for feeling troubled. I shall write no more of matters of this kind. I would be so glad if my brethren and sisters would have confidence enough in me to tell me when I act amiss. By talking with the person in the wrong instead of a neighbor, much might be remedied which now is exaggerated. When I examine myself and see what a weak imperfect creature I am, I have no feeling or desire to censure professing Christians but am filled with charity. Turn to 577 hymn in the psalmist if you please. That expresses my feelings in better language than I can use. The penning of

this lengthy epistle has afforded a good deal of relief to my mind. When not absorbed in urgent or necessary business, I often become very melancholy and cannot bring my mind to read, study or anything but ponder over my grief and disappointments. During the present week at such times I have often diverted my mind in filling these sheets, and this perhaps will be an excuse for want of connection in ideas. I feel confident it would be the wish of my angel wife that I should seek all the comfort this world can afford not inconsistent with the duties of my blessed Saviour. It does not appear now that it ever can afford me much. I feel the need of a kind sympathizing friend much more than before I was permitted the enjoyment of such a dear comfort. I feel an assurance you will be to me a true friend and give me all the comfort, counsel or advice that your heart may dictate or you think I need. I think I have found comfort in striving to look aloft. I would not exchange my hope, feeble as it is, for all this world contains.

(Poetry)

As I hope to have the privilege of writing you again and perceive I can write but little more without another sheet of paper, I will close, expressing the hope you will find it convenient to favor me with a good long letter at an early date. While writing the last five lines I have been called away three times. You will perceive that if I have an idea I am in danger of losing it before getting it on paper. I commenced on Monday and expect to close it today, Saturday, May 1st. If convenient I would like to have you read an article in the Examiner of April 8 on the last page, entitled "The Letter of a Dying Wife." I first read it in New York, it seemed almost as though it were addressed to me. If you are permitted to return to Hamilton the coming summer I hope you will find time occasionally to write to me. And among all your varied employments and enjoyments that you will not entirely forget your unworthy cousin.

Oscar

Harpursville
May 29, 1858

Clora A. Martin

Dear Cousin,

Your very interesting epistle reached me yesterday on my return from visiting our friends in Otsego Co. It was perfectly proper for you to trust my father. Neither he nor my mother ever betrayed any confidence I placed in them. I had not thought till quite lately of its being necessary to exercise any caution about our correspondence. But remarks have come to my ears within a short time which would seem to indicate the necessity for secrecy if we would avoid the remarks of ill natured gossip. The writing to you and the lines received from you have afforded me too much real pleasure for me to feel willing to forego that pleasure in the future, unless I am convinced I am acting wrong. That would be a difficult matter for my conscience is free and undisturbed. No person can convince me that any man loved his wife better than I loved my dear Jane and had I given away to my feelings I should have either been crazy or made everyone around me as wretched as myself. But Jesus loved her and in his own time took her home, and I could not avert the stroke. He has been very good, kind and merciful unto me from my earliest moments to the present time and should I by my repining sin against him I have been and still remain very unreconciled and the knowledge of your dear sympathy has been the only light that has pierced the dark cloud that has overshadowed me. But could I have the assurance that my work on earth was finished I would rather depart and be with Christ which is far better. Yet I strive to pray for a submissive spirit and if it is God's will that I remain on earth many years I trust my way will

be made plain. But O! how sad to think of journeying alone in life. What is more discouraging than the feeling that in our struggle through life, in our trials and disappointments, there are none to sympathize or care for us? No man can go far with unabated strength, courage and cheer if he goes alone. We are made to be rendered happier and better by each other's notice, appreciation, help and praise and the hearts that are debarred from the influences inevitably wither, harden or break. Here and there are found persons who from pride, contrariness or very sensitivity (which they seek to hide) effect to be altogether independent of the notice and regard of their fellow beings. But it is a very safe assertion to make that never yet was there one human heart that did not at some time long for the sympathy of other hearts and there is nobility in this feeling. It is the offspring of God. Even he, all perfect as he is, cannot be satisfied without sympathy and love. And in this truth we may find the key to an awful mystery. No forced admiration and affection would have pleased the Divine heart and in order to obtain voluntary love, spontaneous sympathy and homage, these creatures from whom he desired it must be made able freely to think, will and act. Able to hate and repel their Maker as well as to clasp him with arms of love. Only thus would their love be of value to Him who wooes them from the cradle to the grave. For God is like man in this. He cannot value forced gifts. Tis the free offering, free generous love of the heart that touches the springs of joy in the receiving heart and there is not in the wide universe a being above the brute (and who knows they are accepting) that can positively be made happy unless he be sympathized with and loved.

Sabbath morning. Business cares have been unusually pressing since my return home. I am unable in the present

state of my health to denote that care and attention to this note that I wish. I have written in haste and in a cold room, and I fear you will not be able to read all my poor writing. But as I am anxious that you should get this very soon, so that I may the sooner be favored with your welcome reply, I shall venture to enclose it. Little can you guess how much comfort the letter received last Friday has afforded me. You need not fear to confide your communications to father or mother. But I should not like to have them passed before brother Warren's eyes. For what he knows his wife knows, and what she knows all her female friends know, and her female friends are not all charitable. (This is confidence) My friends did everything to make my visit agreeable.

Oscar.

Friday
June 11, 1858

Mr. William O. Bancroft
Harpursville, N. Y.

Dear Cousin,

As the quiet of evening finds me again at home I resume my pen to continue a correspondence which is to me pleasing, which I hope may never be painful on your part. Though I feel incapable of answering your favor of May 29, I would that my pen were inspired that I might write something both cheering and profitable for your spiritual as well as temporal nature. But alas my pen refuses to trace wise sayings. It will only delineate the out gushings of my plain heart. It would be in vain for me to attempt to appear more intellectual than nature endowed me and I am very far from wishing to appear thus. Only that I might give some return for your most excellent communication. I intended to have replied sooner but my time has been so wholly occupied by my school and other duties that I could not consistantly.

Last Saturday evening after Brother Pope and Lucy left I seated myself with this intention but a good crying spell seemed more congenial with my feelings. Therefore I indulged in it. You will pardon me will you not? I know it seems foolish to be sad when Lucy is so perfectly happy and I know she will be happy sharing the affection of Brother Pope's kind heart. But she is such a dear good girl I should be selfish enough to always want her society. All through life we're only forming friendships and dear relations to be sundered. We must part with dearest friends in this changing world. We are strangers and pilgrims here on earth and this should teach us to look with more humble and affectionate desire to the communion of Saints on high, where

friends meet never to be separated and we can join with the poet in singing:

"Up to that world of light
  Take us dear Savior.
May we all there unite,
  Happy forever.
Where kindred spirits dwell,
  There may our music swell,
And time our joys dispel
  Never, no never."

I regretted very much that you were not permitted to visit us with Brother Pope, but it was probably for the best that we should be denied the pleasure of your company. I am not exactly a fatalist, yet I think I can trace the hand of Providence in the most minute affairs of life as well as those of greater importance. My steps have indeed been mysteriously directed in the past year. And it has been harder I think to trace God's hand in the frustration of my plans for study, than in any other event that has transpired in my whole life. But though I may never see why it is for the best. I desire to have confidence enough in God to feel that it is so. Every blasted hope, every earthly sorrow proclaims to us that all below is vanity. We need to be continually reminded that earthly joys are not enduring. Else we should place our affections entirely upon them. A good hope through Grace is all that can afford permanent, solid happiness. The Christian may at all times cast his care on God, remembering that "Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal." I have been boarding away from home for the first time, and I am such a home child that this boarding around does not agree with my inclination. The quiet and unrestraint of home really seems quite a luxury although there has been only a short absence. Usually when at home the hour of twilight is devoted to playing on my melodian and I miss this so much when away. Music hath

power to dissipate every trace of gloom which may gather around the heart through the toilsome way, and it is a recreation I very much need.

"I love to sing when I am glad.
  Song is the echo of my gladness.
I love to sing when I am sad,
  Till song makes glad my very sadness.
And song to me is company,
  Good company when I am lonely."

I have been thinking tonight as I have been so pleasantly situated, you were probably busy in the store with no time for recreation. And I have not failed to breathe the wish that some guardian spirit might paint bright thoughts upon the arena of your imagination and whisper words of hope and comfort to your soul.

I thank you for the acrostic. Had I time would "court the muses" and endeavor to reply. Perhaps will at some future time. The poetry in the Democrat of May 13 entitled "Not Dead, But Sleepeth," the authorship is pretty generally ascribed to me, unjustly, however. It is from Sr. Caroline's pen, is it not? I had not seen it till I was accused of writing a piece for publication. Since I have seen it I do not feel as bad as before, for I think it is excellent. It is getting late and I must bid you goodnight. Hoping to hear from you again soon. Pardon whatever may savor of egotism in this epistle. I see I have made free use of the pronoun of the first person.

Your unworthy cousin,
Clora.

Sat. June 19, 1858, 9 Oclock, eve.

Dear Cousin,

Many thanks for your esteemed favor of the eleventh inst.. Our Heavenly Father is a very merciful God to me and and has been from my earliest remembrance. Even i his afflictive Providemce I should be blind indeed, did I not see a hand of mercy. It had seemed that all early hope amd comfort were taken from me. Yet God has shown that He is both able and willing to raise up a kind and willing Friend to comfort me for the loss of the one he has taken to Himself/ When I see my dear mother toiling in much pain, and bodily suffering for my comfort and happiness I cannot bear at add to her cares and troubles, by making her my confidant and thereby making her a pawticipant in my sad sad feelings. The ,ind willingness you have shown in listening to my complaining and the promptness with which you have returned those kind thosemkind comforting teplies, have filled my he rt with gratitude to you, and I trust to God I have not felt that it was a duty to nurse my grief and by pondering it over, see how bad I couod feel, but on the contrary, have rather striven to drive it from my mind as much as possible. Where my darling Jane has gone, there is no grief, no disappointing, no jealousies or heart aches on accountof the dissaffection of friends; but all is perfect peace and love and they have the blessed assurance that that God regardeth and kt is not in the power of the evil disposed to mar his plans. As long as my dear wife remained here, I was true to her in every thought, but God in his wisdom has taken her away and dissolved that allegiance. I remain and doubtless have a work to perform, a mission to fulfill, but it is hard for weak frail human nature to live and struggle on, from a mere sence of duty, with some object to live for some light hope as a beacon light to beckon us on. When my conscience does not condemn, the opinion of the world has very little influence over me; but its judgement is often harsh and the feelings of Friends should be, therefore, I wish to be prudent and not give occasion for repproach unnnecessarily. But I cannot seem why we should not have a clear understanding between ourselves. I believe in our correspondence thus far I hsve written nothing but what might have passed beteeen Cousin that were of blood relations with propriety. But finding that my heart was more interested in you than were cousin ship should warrant; I thought that . that spirit of frankness that I wish from others, would require that I should state my feelings more fully. What I wish to enquire now is, whether there is any objection to my cheerishing my love for you, and whether there is any hope that you can return that love, or any reason why you cannot? I do not claim any right to ask the question and of course you are free to confide in me or not, yet I have confidence to believe that you would not object to

letting me know if your affections were engaged for I surely would not wish to trespass upon the rights and privileges of others. I am not accustomed to gather my information fro rumour, therefore I enquire from you, did circumsctances require, I could surely wait as long as Jacob did for his much loved Rachel, could I have a reason-ground for expecting the final realization for my Hopes But I will not write more on this subject without your permission. If I have erred in the spirit of friendship that exists between us please point out those errors.

I regretted very much that I was not permitted to make that call with Bro. Pope and Lucy; But I cannot help but hope that the the day will come when we can meet and look into each others eyes, those mirrors of the soul, talk freely of those truths we shall then see rev aled,

"O blessed is love's meeting
when here by sorrows riven,
It tells us of the greeting
We will receive in heaven".

I should be worse th n a heather did I not, believe that our God, is a hearer and answerer of prayer after the evidence I have had. You ask an interest in my prayers. There has not a day passed since i have felt your values sympathy, that I have notmremembered you in my secret devotions. And since I have realized an earthyly love was again taken possession of my heart, I have made it a special subject of my prayer, and I have and I have been led to leave the matter with confidence to God, firmly believing He will over rule and direct us, shall be most for our good and His names honor and glory. I have had many instances in which I could realize the kind ocerruling providence.

Thanks for the acrostic, but you must not expect me to enter the lists with you as a writer of poetry, for the Muse is not kind to me, even if I had time to invoke her aid. I cannot even devote that time to this correspondence, that I could wish, or that in my estimation that it deserves; in the present state of my health or the a,ount of business cases that devolve upon me. Sere it not for my anxiety for you should have this line on the morrow, I would not think I was able to be sitting up at midnight for I for I have been troubled with my unpleasant companion of mine most of the day viz, a nervous head ache. But until the last half hour my mind has been pleasantly influenced by by sweet meody as discovered by the Harpursville Brass Band.. The plaintively sweet notes of Home Sweet Home is mellowed by distance and the balming summer evening air have made me for the moment thankful that I yet live, and blessed with faculties that permit me to enjoy the sweet things of earth. But pain admonishes me that I must seek rest in order to be fitted for discharging the duties of the morrow and trust to devote an hour in the morning to the completion of this.

Sabbath morning "How sweet upon this sacred day.
The best of all the seven.
To cast our earthyly thoughts away,
And think of God and Heaven.

I feel to regret that I have notmtime to rewrite this sheet I filled last night: but but think I will commit it

charity trusting that you will reject those things I should have rejected upon reexamination and excuse haste and want of care this time. Have you ever lain awake from the clocks ticking, to its striking agqin and so on, hour after hour longing to sleep, yet unable to get its blessing The mind busy, busy with thought, the body weary, perhaps with pain. My nervous organization has not been able to withstand the strain that has been placed upon it, the past spring and I have passed many a wrestless night. I thankful I had ought to be that I havve yet a a quiet loving home. But I can see daily that my dear parents ale, passing away, and what will become of me then. Can I hope for a loving home when they are gone. But hear a go again distrusting God's care over me. He alone knows whether aI shall out live them. Home is not confined to station,-home is where there is one we love--- Home is where there is one who loves us. Home is in the faithful breast, home where where the soul finds comfort, where the weary one can rest.

Please do not apologize for your letters, for it will make me heartily ashamed of mine. I would not have you," "Appear worse intellectual than nature has designed" you to appear, even to interest me. For I feel myself deeply your debtor now. If indulging in a hearty fit of crying required pardon I fear I should have to ask it often, unmanly as it might seem. At dear Lucy's wedding, although I had not thought but what I could control myself in company, the tears flowed freely. To see them in whos happiness I had such an interest in occupying the relation to each other, that I and my darling Jane had occupied to each other for less than one year, and thinking what changes might occur to themin the year to come, is it strange that I could not control my feelings. Yet sad as has been the results and grievous for me to endure, I cannot regret that our marriage occured when it did, for I think she was happier than she otherwise could have been and we cannot believe such things happen by chance or the God took her home before His appointed time. Last Monday I took mother over to see Aunt Rachel before her departure for her southern home and while the rest were conversing I retired to the room and sat by the window where Jane and I had passed the hoursa on so many lovely Sabbat eves, and there I found relief in tears I then shed have removed in great measure this appresive feeling that would not be relieved. There are many things I would like to write but the sound of the bell admonished me that I must close. I had counted it almost as a certainty, that I should meet you both on Sat. and Sun, last, but was doomed to disappointment. It is a great grief that I am so unlike my blessed Savior, can we not be a mutual assistance, in reminding each other of our duties to Him?

Please write soon,

Farewell,

to Clora. Oscar.

Mr. Wm. Oscar Bancroft At home
Harpursville, N.Y. June 26, 1868
Dear Cousin,

Time in his onward march has nu bered another week with the past and gladly do I hail the returning of a Saturday evening. Ihave just returned from school weary with the long weeks labor. I feel much more like sitting down and chatting with you than taking up my pen to write. But as the former is possible I must avail myself of this "tedius medium". It is indeed no small blessing that we can converse with absent friends even in this slow way. This hqs been quite an eventful week for me. The much dreaded visit from Mr. Moody is over with. School examination. It passed much more pleasantly than I anticipated. I had supposed from hear say that he was severe and thorough in his examination but he was exactly the reverse with me. I suppose he thought it might not be nest to turn me out of school anyway after I had taught so long. I went down to stay with cousin Hattie and had a very unsexpectedly an inviation to attend a wedding party. You cannot guess who's. Amanda Driggs was married to Hiram Silliman. The ceremony took place at Mr. Weeds and as it wqs so near I could not very well refuse the invitation. But it was lucky for me they did not carry out the ancient custom of admitting none without a wedding garment. I of course enjoyed it much though there seemed very little solemnity connected with it as conducted by Elder Allaban .

The package from you was thankfully received. I had thought of asking you to sellect my reading this summer. It alwas adds to the interest of a work to know it was selected by a friend. I have not yet finished reading sunnyside. When I had done so will return it. It was intended as a lone was it not. Was very much iterestee in the memoir of Mrs. Phelps. And yet there seemed t to be such a union of oposite qualities in her sh sharacter as sketched by the author that I could hardly reconcile them in one person. So timid and retiring and yet resolute and determined. She was indeed an amiable woman, a worthy pattern a person of brilliant talents. I have always t read what came from her pen with interest.

Emotions both pleasing and painful have by turns taken possesion of my mind while perusing your kind epistle of the 19th inst. Pleasing because it is good to feel there are spirits congenial with our own but painful when I consider what an unloveable being I am. I fear your acquaintance with me has not been sufficient to warrant your cherishing any esteem from me. I would not have you imagine me as pure and noble as your own departed Jane. And find at length you had been loving an ideal being to whom there were no virtues in me to correspond. I think it is certainly proper that there be perfect under standing between us.

and I will tell you with all frankness that never yet have my affections ever been lavished on any other earthly object. Many have been the cautions of kind friends (those who have known of our correspondence) lest I would let my sympathetic nature lead me blindly into the meshes of loves net. They have of course been gratefully recieved as they have been offered in a spirit of kindness. Such expressions as these I have heard, "You must not allow yourself to love a broken hearted one for, though you might be happy for a time in loving you would at length find the necessity of being loved in return". Perhaps you will wonder at my familiarity in writing. I wonder myself but, "what I have written I have written". Did time permit I would write some more to make some necessary preparations for the sabbath. Thank you for your kind remembrance at the Mercy seat. Juat where I can be most useful there would I spend the remainder of my days. Let me hear from you again soon,

Your cousin

Clora.

#1315

June 27, 1858

Dear Clora,

This is Sabbath evening, did I not practice self denial, I waited some two hours after your (to me) previous letter was placed in my hand by my dear mother, before breaking its seal and possessing myself of its contents. I had hoped that you might be permitted to remain and enjoy our p.m. prayer and conference meeting. How it vexed me that I could not tell you as my heart prompted that if you would stay I would provide the means of returning you to your school in season.

We had a good meeting, but my enjoyment was marred by the absence of some and the seeming coldness and indifference of others of our church members. Why is Zion so desolate here, while she is so fruitful in other parts of our land? After meeting closed, as it was raining, a few of us, Maggie, Cloe, Mr. Alvord and myself had a pleasant sing. When I returned home mother handed me your epistle, but instead of immediately allowing myself the enjoyment of its contents, I sat down and learned to play a new tune on the melodian, which occupied the time until the call to tea, after which as it is the custome of some of us to read for the enjoyment of the rest. I read the seventh of Youngs Right Thoughts. Subject - "Imortality." Beautiful theme. I then retired to my room and read your letter twice before laying it down. And then, feeling a strong inclination to communicate with you, I commenced writing as you perceived.

Last Wednesday morning I arose about three o'clock and taking Elder Reynolds in the carriage with me, we were soon wending our way up the pleasant valley of the Susquehannah, enjoying the sweet perfume of the morning air, the song of the birds, the glories of an unclouded sunrise, and all those beauties poets know how to describe. We were on our way to attend the 47th session of the Franklin Baptist Association, at Sand Hill, distance 28 miles. Need I say who I would have preferred for a companion? These annual gathering of that body are endeared to me by many ties. We had a pleasant meeting, not withstanding the great crowd and the oppressive heat. Among the most noteworthy of the interesting incidents was the report of the church in Butternuts that their pastor had baptised about sixty among whom were seven husbands and their wives. After the close of the meeting (Thursday) we returned home, driving 21 miles between seven and eleven, enjoying the luxury of a moon light drive.

I almost envy Commissioner Moody's privilege of visiting your school. The committee of managers for getting up a district school celebration of independents in this town, handed me a list of five schools they wished me to visit, among which was yours. But before the time arrived for setting out on the mission, the orders were countermanded.

I am glad you enjoyed the "surprise wedding." Surprise parties are the fashion this summer, but I have thus far excused myself from making one of the number, not feeling I could add much to my own enjoyment or that of others at present.

Have never heard of Mr. Hiram Silliman before. Who is he? And where is his abiding place? Hope he is not as silly as his name might indicate. Pardon the poor pun. From what I have seen of Miss Amanda, should think she would make a good man a good wife -- Do not feel capable of selecting good reading for you. The book is one I bought last spring for my sister, while reading the memoirs of Mrs. Phelps I was much affected by some of the incidents and thought then you would like to read it. It caught my eye that morning as a convenient inclosure for my letter.

Only a year ago last fall I read "Peep at Number Five," by this authoress in company with my Angel wife, my darling Jane.

Monday evening -- I have wondered much at my presumption in intimating a wish to obtain your love when I had lavished the first pure love of my heart and could offer you but a second love in return for your priceless gift. Perhaps it is egotistical, but I feel I have a capacity for loving that would enable me to repay with interest all you could bestow on such an unworthy object. I do not know how to express the emotions of my heart on paper. But you will pardon me, I trust, for whispering a secret in your ear. One which I thought I could never trust to mortal ear. For more than two years it was a matter of uncertainty with me which of two fair cousins held the highest place in my esteem but provience determined the matter, for once at least the "old saw" that "the course of true love never does run smooth" was falsified. From the moment I determined to seek her hand and heart until the hour of her fatal illness, everything was pleasant between us. Everything occurred as if for our special gratification. But it was not to last. And I presume it was for the best that I should suffer. Could I have borne it alone I would have tried to have borne it without a murmur, but it seemed hard that others should have to suffer so much. I have never anticipated finding in you a perfect facsimile of my departed. I know I love traits in your character that she did not possess. I would not seek to win your love (much as I desire it) under any false pretense. And I say rather frankly that could Jane be returned to earth she would be my choise among all women I have known. Yet, I know of no reason I could not love you as well as I loved her. A few short weeks ago I never thought I could again suffer my affections to become set so deeply on an earthly creature ----unfinished.

(Oscar)

July 4, 1858

Dear Cousin, (Clora A. Martin)

As I had not written all I intended for the enclosure this a.m. I have concluded not to await a reply before commencing another. Can you inform me why it is that we read thoughts into the familiar handwriting of a dear friend with so much more interest than the best of printed productions? With what joy do we hail the familiar inscription on the envelope. With what thrilling emotions we break the seal. With what heartfelt interest do we peruse its contents from date to signature. I have been led to this train of thought at the present time by listening to the reading of a letter which the widow Baker has just received from her son David, his first after his arrival at his home in Missouri from his short visit here. He gave an account of the incidents of his journey after he left his mother's until he arrived at home. He was enraptured with the welcome his wife gave him. He was married only last December to (according to his account) one of the most beautiful women man was ever blessed with. I should have mentioned this morning that Brother Pope and Lucy have arrived at their destination in safety. No particulars till the next. Stayed about four times as long at cousin Taylor's as they expected. The warning you give dear Clora against loving an ideal being to whom there were no virtues in me to correspond should perhaps be reversed. Yet I would not wish your heart to be entrusted to my keeping without you were well enough acquainted not to be disappointed in me. And I shall endeavor not to seem better than I am. I will confess that since the bright hope of again loving and being beloved has cheered my heart. Life has been invested with new charms, has seemed much more desirable, yet my hours are far from being all bright. They have been bad for several days past since I was possessed of the loving and lovely wife

and seemingly all that my heart desired. Now, alas! How changed. Several evenings during the past week when I have seen my dear mother almost prostrated by the labors she thinks it necessary for her to perform and which the heat and the feeble state of her health make much too nervous for her, I have felt again almost to rebel. I have just been reading in the funeral sermon of the late S. E. Cone D.D. that he (Dr. Cone) "spent 14 years of his life when a youth and a young man in toiling for the support or education of his mother and brothers and sisters." The love for his mother was of the deepest, purest and most lasting nature. He says he loved her with an unfeigned love. No man had a mother more worthy of this love than I. I have been truly blest in my parents, yet I am some unsettled in my mind as to my duty to them. Perhaps you can advise me. I had concluded that it was my duty to remain with them and they so earnestly wished it as long as they should live. Until my expectations were so suddenly blighted. Oh, you never can know how bitter the disappointment, how cruel the sorrow, how sad and lonely I have been. I should have gone west long ago had they been willing and now my inclination leads me to go when my business arrangements are completed here so that I can leave. Is it my duty to remain with them when I am satisfied that I could do so much better pecuniarily by going west? It seems to be often the case that those things that cause us the most perfect happiness in life also cause the keenest suffering. I have thought much that if this avowal of attachment on my part for you should cause you trouble and unhappiness I should wish that my right hand had been cut off before I had written it. Yet I cannot but trust that God has directed and will direct. Did I not have faith in an ever ruling Providence I should not dare. Yet it would be a great self denial to refrain from avowing my love and to forge the hope of ever being beloved again.

Little can you know how my heart has desired to again hear spoken with sincerity those sweet words, I love you. I have felt like crying out in the agony of my spirit, love me or I die. Oh, Clora, I cannot but hope that you will learn to love even poor me, yet I fear that it is selfish in me to ask it. But I hope you will pardon this selfishness and grant me your pity if you cannot your love. I shall ever be grateful for your friendship, for it has seemed I could not have lived without it. We little know how much we can endure until we are tried.

Love me, you are very dear,
  and for love, love I should be given;
Love me! Earth will then appear
  more like Heaven.
Love me! If we are not loved
  earth in vain displays her beauty;
And to love to me has proved
  life's most beutific duty.

Love me'. Gentle hearted one
  still my fond heart keeps repeating,
Feeling it is love alone
  that endears this life so fleeting.

Love me! You are truly dear,
  and more like the world above me.
Will this changing one appear
  if you love me.

Tuesday, July 6. Have had the privilege of hearing from Lucy through Mrs. Morrison. Her letter is something of the journal of the incidents by the way. She says John (Brother Pope) looked very happy, and she feels very happy. He requests her to stay for him that his time is very much occupied with the care of the sheep. But he will take special care of the lamb they have committed to his charge. She met with an aged gentleman (Presbyterian) who said he had labored hard for a sufficiency of this world's goods and had succeeded well he thought, but one had gone to Kansas and the other to some distant place and now his only

daughter had been won away from him and he was on his way to visit her in her new home in Minnesota. Lucy told him that she had been won away from home and friends and was now on her way to a new home. The old gentleman gave her a cordial shake of the hand and wished them a great many good wishes. She says that John has not overrated anything. The reality is better than the anticipation all the while. The people are kind, not looking sidewise as at an intruder nor staring at some rare curiosity. She has visited the falls of St. Anthony and Minnehaha, sent home a pressed rose from the latter, but I am not doing sister Pope justice. Wish you could see the letter.

I was reading a few days since in one of the magazines the description of a young lady taking the black robe in anticipation of becoming a nun. The writer after leaving that scene at which he moralizes at some length, calls upon a lady friend. Contrast the scene he has just left with the one he is now being introduced to. He says, "I was shown into her library, my friend's husband was reading aloud to her, Ah, I laid in the bosom of your family? Yes, he replied, returning my smile, enjoying domestic bliss that has survived the fall." In the corner were two happy little girls engaged with their dolls and baby houses. How much richer is this, I thought as I looked about this scene, than the sterile life in a convent. Time forbids that I should read further.

On my way to meeting Sabbath evening, Aunt Sarah Barnes (she is Aunt to us all you know) handed me these lines which I copy for your perusal.

Early Lost, Early Saved

Untimely night! Ah, no, these words erase!
  Early transplanted to that heavenly place
Where cares shall never press upon her brow,
  One passing cloud. No, she is sainted now.
Earth's hope and cares, her breast shall never rend;
  She dwells with God, her father and her friend.

He took her to himself in her first bloom,
  For some wise end formed her an early tomb.
Shall presumption presume to scan
  The wonders of his vast mysterious land?
Teach us to feel his ways are always just,
  And when we can't unriddle, help to trust.
Thou Great Omnipotent! Who shall dare to throw
  One shade of doubt why thou dispensed the blow.
Thy love saw fit and it was wisely done,
  Early to call our beloved one.
Perhaps thou sawest temptation around her rise,
  And loving fondly snatched her to the skies.

Episcopal Recorded, June 26

Shall I ever learn to acknowledge the goodness of God, in affliction and trial as in mercies and blessings? May God have mercy on me and forgive my murmurings and discontent and make me more Christlike. Oh, how I long to feel the abundant love of Christ shed upon my heart. Then perhaps I might fully acknowledge that sweet are the uses of adversity. Brother Warren showed me a letter from Cousin Albert. He expects to be ordained the 13th instant. He writes that his labors are severe, his position difficult. He is growing poor in flesh, does not know when he shall see Colesville again. Methodist influence he has to contend with very strong. Write me a long letter (they are all good) and you shall have my present gratitude and future thanks.

Yours in love and truth,
Oscar (Wm. Oscar Bancroft)

(Having lost his first wife, he turns to her cousin, Clora Amanda Martin. PMB)

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Yours in Love and Truth
Oscar.

Friday
July 9, 1858

Dear Friend,

Had anyone told me last Sabbath that I would not commence a reply to your esteemed letter before this I should not have believed them. So fully was I determined to write you a good long letter this week. My conscience almost smites me for not better obeying the Golden Rule. Yet I trust you will pardon a short communication and not think it as showing any disregard for your wishes when I tell you that I have been "as busy as a bee" every moment out of school hours assisting Irene in her sewing. Since school tonight I have been stitching busily to complete a dress for Vernon. You need to wonder at some marks appear in this sheet. It is not a common thing for me to be so industrious as I have been this week and I hardly think I should now if I had been sewing for myself. One person could find all they could do to go around among my sisters and assist them what they need and they are all fondly hoping that they shall have one old maid sister always at hand in the hour of need. Would this not be convenient. Perhaps one could be more useful in this way than any other. I am sure this would be leading an unselfish life. Why was I not made with a heart perfectly impregnable to the darts from cupid's bow and so entirely regardless of myself? But enough of this nonsense. I did not practice such commendable self denial upon the receipt of your letter; hardly did I wait until I reached home before breaking the seal and need I tell you that it has been read and reread again and again. O! I fear you do not know me. You could not, I am sure, offer your love to such an impulsive child of nature. It is indeed hard for me "to express the emotions of my heart on paper" and there is nothing I so much desire as an interview with you. Still

my better judgment tells me this is not best. I would have you do nothing which would cause unnecessary censure. I have endeavored to read in the mysterious providence of God toward us the past spring, His will concerning us and I think I have been enabled to look up for guidance and felt great confidence that He will direct our minds according to to His own will. My mind is strongly impressed with the idea that there should be great congeniality of spirit in the marriage relation, and would not be wisdom and wait for a more intimate acquaintance before deciding with reference to our future course. I certainly could think none the less of you for having loved so worthy a person as was your first choice and one so dear to my heart. Yet I often fear you would find the disparity so great between us that I could never make your home happy.

Saturday morning. I was obliged to lay aside my pen last eve and go on an errand to Frederick's and this morning I have but a moment to write as I am to teach this forenoon. I am heartily ashamed of this letter and half inclined not to hand it to you. There is nothing cheering, comforting or definite in it. Yet thinking perhaps that an apology for a letter will be better than no letter at all. I enclose it for your perusal. I will promise to do better in the future.

Yours affectionately,
Clora.

July 24, 1858

William O. Bancroft.

How would the pleasures of this evening be heightened if they were shared with thee. Betsey and myself have been out enjoying a walk by moonlight. There is a silent charm about such a calm evening which lifts one's soul from earth. The pure rays of the moon and deep repose of nature breathe of heaven. The air seems filled with spirit voices. The gentle moving of the leaves seems like the rustle of seraphic wings. Perhaps you will pronounce me at once too romantic. If you do I will not disagree with you. I have often wished there was more practicality in my nature. Life I know is real and creates conflict. And yet my imagination likes to revel in the idea. Since our return from our walk we have been having some music. Betsey said she was not going to let me write all the evening when I had been absent so long (since Wednesday morning), for she considered she has a claim upon part of my time. And as she required nothing more irksome than a tune on the melodian and a social chat, I have most cheerfully gratified her wishes. She has now (ten o'clock) retired, leaving me sole occupant of the parlor. And at this late hour I can write little else than an affectionate goodnight, yet my rest will be sweeter tonight, feeling the assurance I have done the best I could. I have been very busy this week, having hardly allowed myself time for meditation, endeavoring to assist Irene in her many cares and household duties when out of school. And this is my apology for not preparing a letter before. I am happy, very happy in your love, and yet (using the words of Rebecca when addressing Fron Thorpe, "I am unhappy for I know you think me better, a great deal better than I am." You do not know and I cannot express to you on paper the strange emotions of my heart. Can it be that I share the affections of a noble manly heart? It comes up to me like a dream sometimes, and

I involuntarily tremble lest it is all an illusion and will vanish as suddenly as some pleasant vision at night, but such feelings are entirely dispersed when I reperuse your epistles and find in them real expressions of affectionate regard. I have known what it is to share a schoolgirl's love, the warm love of brothers and sisters, and the untold depth of parental affection, yet the pure love of one pure heart affords greater rapture than all these. I am now expecting to attend commencement. I cannot think of giving it up for it will give so much pleasure meeting old friends aside from the intellectual feast it affords. I shall be very happy to meet you there. Hope you will attend.

Yours in love,
Clora.

(Poor Clora was six feet tall and not blessed with beauty and so was not sought after by the young men. Her family expected her to stay single and care for parents. But not marrying early gave her time for a better education and a teaching experience that made her an excellent wife later and at this time very vulnerable to William Oscar's approach.

Do we not see the most compassionate, sensitive, and generous personalities in those who do not enjoy great beauty and have been humbled by misfortune? Elizabeth and I have come to admire her greatly. PMB)

Sunday
July 25, 1858

Miss Clora A. Martin

My Own Loved One,

How could I endure the weary weeks without the constant assurance I had your love. How highly prized, you cannot dream now, yet I trust you may know. O! How thankful I ought to be instead of repining. God is very, very good for permitting me to live and love and o! inexpressably sweet. How difficult for the human heart to be satisfied. Only a short time ago I thought I could endure with patience everything if I only could be assured of your love. Yet now I feel it a great deprivation that I cannot occasionally spend a quiet evening at your side, listening to the love tones of your dear voice, and unflooding to you the inmost thoughts of my heart. Yet if I were permitted these occasional interviews I should then require your daily presence for my happiness. So perhaps for the present it is best as it is. I would have patience enjoying the present blessing of providence as they are presented to me. I feel in my inmost soul that there is hope of joy for us in the not too distant future. For time moves at a snail-like pace only for the sorrowful. There is joy in my heart tonight.

O! My darling, there are so many evil persons in this wicked world of ours. Why does depraved human nature delight in destroying the happiness of others? Our dear pastor is now suffering in mind from the poisoned tongue of scandal. Yet secure in the rectitude of our own hearts and in the sweet consciousness of each other's love, we will fear no evil. On my return with Elder R. from meeting last Sabbath I had the privilege of reading dear sister Lura's latest diary. O! How I am rebuked for the cold careless manner in which I have discharged my duties as a Christian. To see how earnest she was in the discharge of duties of this life, how fearful lest she might fail in the performance of some

of them, conscious of her own weakness, yet trusting in the strong for strength, and now her life work is done. Mine yet remains to be completed. She seemed to have many premonitions that her time here was short in the last year of her life. Let us prove faithful so we may be ready when the Master calls.

I too enjoyed the beautiful moonlight Saturday evening. Yet not fully, for I was alone. Alone. How sad the word. There is nothing in my nature adapting me to a life of solitude. A pleasure unshared is but half a pleasure to me. Alone! No father, no mother, no sister, no brother, no wife nor children dear. None loving, none to love. What a life to contemplate. Yet I will not dwell on this for a moment as there was joy in my heart. In the language of Ironthorpe, "Happy is he whose father and mother, brother and sister, and wife love him for the truth and in the truth; who can travel with them hand in hand together up the shining hills of life; giving and receiving strength."

I sincerely hope nothing in providence can prevent you spending commencement week in Hamilton, for I know how you will enjoy the privilege. And should I be permitted to be there (which I think will be the case), how pleasant to realize that you are listening to the same eloquent words and enjoying the same intellectual feast.

I have spent happy hours on the hills overlooking the town of Hamilton. May I not hope that our eyes together may not look upon its beauties, together in joyous loveliness? We certainly can enjoy each other's society on such an occasion without giving occasion for remarks from the sensorium.

Dear Clora, is it wrong for me to be so happy in the consciousness of your love? I am sure my prayers have been more earnest. I have felt more thankfulness and gratitude since I have felt this assurance. The past two years seem like a dream, so pleasant and yet so inexpressably sad.

Clora, I do and shall love you with my whole heart. Yet I hope while I shall not love you less I will love God more than ever. Do not fear "that it will vanish as an illusion" or "some pleasant vision of the night." I have no fear that you shall love me more than I love you and as long as I am sure of your love I shall not be unhappy.

The fellowship of kindred mind is like to that above.

Like you I have been very busy the past week. I had not anticipated handling the scythe myself this season, but being unable to obtain such help as we wanted I determined to do it myself if I could. Last Monday I arose at half past four, mowed all the forenoon, cradled rye all the afternoon and in the evening walked up the hill to spend the night with the cold remains of Judge Blakesley and with the exception of the few hours attending a few funerals I have labored all week in the same ratio. In consequence my nervous system is affected so I can hardly write intelligibly.

Oscar.

Sabbath Morning
August 1, 1858

Mr. William O. Bancroft
Harpursville, N. Y.

Dearest Best Friend,

You cannot imagine unless you have experienced the same how cheering your precious letter received yesterday has been to my heart. The past week has seemed the longest one I ever knew and, as you say, "Time moves not with a snail-like pace only to the sorrowful." I must acknowledge my heart has not been as light as usual for me. The prospect of being left alone in a few days has made me sad in spite of all my efforts to overcome it, but I have felt much more cheerful since receiving your kind and affectionate letter. More precious to me than its weight in gold, for as long as I am sure of your love I cannot be very unhappy. Betsey is to take leave of us next Thursday morning. The wedding ceremony will take place in the Baptist Church in Harpursville. She was very desirous that I should act as bridesmaid. I did not wish to do so unless the one I wanted would act with me. Therefore Nelson and Harriet are to be waiters and to accompany them as far as Bainbridge. There is so much I want to write this morning and I do not have the time. I must carry this down to Irene that she may be the bearer of this to you. Can you not come over Monday or Tuesday? I think there would be no impropriety and no one would think so in your coming over to visit Albert before his return. Perhaps it is not best, you can judge the matter candidly and do as you think proper. But we should be exceedingly happy to see you and your mother if she could make it convenient to accompany you. I have closed my school for at least three weeks and it is doubtful whether I teach any more, as I expect to go to Lodi in about six weeks to assist Betsey when she goes to housekeeping. I must not write more this morning. I regret it

much that we cannot attend meeting today. So it seems providentially ordered. Reuben does not seem as well this morning. I very much fear he will have a run of fever. Yours in great haste,

Clora.

(Jane died March 21, 1858. This correspondence started four months later. Perhaps it was for this reason they did not want to be seen together. They also sent these notes by trusted messengers instead of through the local post office for, in that day, there was no privacy there. Also, in that day, when a young wife died it was common practice for the widower to return to her family and marry a sister, but Oscar was turning to this other Martin family to seek a cousin of Jane's. PMB)

News paper clipping

Toler's Post office. A.C., Miss. Aug. 15, 1858

Union Institute.

The trustees of this Institute are gratified to inform the patrons of the former school and the public generally that they have secured the services of Joseph A. Barlow as principal there of. The reputation of Mr. Barlow as a teacher and a man justify us in recommending the attendance of all to this school. The year will be divided into two sessions of five months each- the first commencing on Monday the 13th. Pulils will be received at any time during the session but not for a less time than to the close of the session with no deduction for lost time except in case of sickness.

Rates

All English Branches	$3.00	per month.
Latin and Greek	4.00	" "
Incidental expenses	.50	" Session

Tuition payable at the close of the session

Board can be procured in the nieghborhood at at from $6.00 to $8.00 a month.

William Cotton
Moses Jackson
William Hazelwood
Trustees.

August 25, 1858

(Letter of Clora to Oscar, sealed without stamp)

Dearest,

An opportunity is offered for me to go over on the Hill the remainder of the week which I accepted rather reluctantly since it will prevent my attending the sing, but I think on the whole it is best. Accept one more assurance of my warmest love.

Your own
Clora

(September 6, 1858 - Wrote Oscar a chatty letter.)

(June 27, 1958, he wrote Clora a long letter while he was away attending the 47th session of the Franklin Baptist Association at Land Hill, some 8 miles from Harpursville. She was away attending a "school," probably a girls' school or academy. PMB)

Surprise parties are the fashion in our community. My presumption in wishing to attain your love for more than two years, it was a matter of uncertainty with me, which of two cousins held the highest place in my esteem. But Providence, as I firmly believed, determined the matter. For once the old saw, "The course of true love never runs smooth" was falsified. From the moment that I determined to seek her hand and heart until the hour of her fatal illness, everything was pleasant between us, everything occurred as if for our special accomodation and gratification, but it was not to last, and I presume it was for the best that I was to suffer. ---------- I have never anticipated that I would find in you a perfect facsimile of my dear departed. I know I love traits in your character which she did not possess. I would not seek to win your love under any false pretense, and I say frankly that could Jane be returned to earth with my present knowledge of her excellencies, she would be my

choice among all women I have ever known. Yet I know of no reason why I could not love you just as well as I have loved her.

(Note: It is clear that they were very close friends when he married her cousin. His new love for Clora was very real and genuine. His second marriage was not just one of convenience. PMB)

(Clora wrote Oscar from sister Elvira's - April 7, 1858.)

Afflicted Cousin,

Most gladly would I offer a word of consolation to your sad, bleeding heart. ---- Jane was my firm and faithful friend. From early childhood we shared our dreams and plans. ----- We constantly reminded how weak are the plans formed by mortals and how easily frustrated. Do not let yourself be troubled by the foolish gossiping of mischief makers. --- you may certainly claim me as a friend. --- I have esteemed you as such and will most cheerfully comply with your request should you wish to continue correspondence. It would be contrary to nature did I not deal frankly with you. When trials oppress, look aloft; it is there you will find a solace.

Your unworthy friend,
C. A. Martin.

(Note: Her letter, like those of Jane, are in excellent English, good hand, and well punctuated. These were girls of culture and quality. The Martin family was a strong family. The girls were all sent to academy either at Colgate or at Binghamton. PMB)

Harpursville
August 26, 1858

Dearest Clora,

Although I know not when I shall have an opportunity of getting this to you, yet write I must for it seems a very long time since I penned anything for or received anything from your dear hand. Can you free your mind from the many sad thoughts which will oppress and draw inspiration from these exceedingly lovely moonlight nights? Between eleven and twelve last night the slumbering echoes were awakened by the harmonious sound of a guitar, accompanied by a piccolo, flue and cornopia. How I longed for power at that moment to draw you to my side that in unison our hearts might enjoy the seraphic sweetness, purity and melody of that hour. Please excuse the eloquence.

I have seen the following lately in the newspaper. Is it true? "A man's letters are unsatifactory and provoking as a man's letters always are." Unsatisfactory doubtless my letters always are but I hope not provoking. Yet this one will not be unsatisfactory to me if it provokes a good long letter from you. O! Why cannot you be ever by my side to cheer my sad and lonely house for you have the power to do it. Why I am so sad and lonely while I am assured of your dear sympathy I know not. But I need your presence. O! If I might once more be light hearted, free from care and sad anxiety.

Dear Clora, you are so enshrined in my inmost soul that my thoughts instantly revert to you when freed from the necessary business affairs and thought which occupy my mind. Is it thus with you? Is it a pleasure for you to call up my image when your mind is not occupied? I do not raise the queries with any doubt of anxiety but because it is so dearly pleasing to me to receive renewed assurance of your love for and confidence in me. If you can only love me as

as dearly as I love you I will be satisfied. Were it possible that your feeling should change, that you should ever think that you were premature in giving me assurance of your love before knowing me well enough to be sure you loved me as I am and not as I appeared to you, I should wish to know it. Although I don't know how I could endure it now. Yet I would not wish you bound to me by emotions of pity, merely, after love had taken its departure. It is so sweet the feeling to know that you love me and I love you. I never can doubt your love a moment unless I hear it from your own lips. And I am sure you will tell me. So goodnight and pleasant dreams.

29th. I have not found time to write more this week and cannot write much this morning, although there is very much I would like to say. I should have come up to see you last evening could I have been sure you were at cousin Mary's and that it would be agreeable. Why is love and the companionship of the one I love so necessary to my happiness? Please write me a good long letter for I feel this to be a very unsatisfactory one. It is to me at least.

In unchanging love,
Oscar.

(To Clora)

Clora Bancroft at Nineveh August 31, 1858 or 9

Dear Clora,

I cannot tell what my pen means for I had intended to Lois but my pen wrote Clora before I knew it. To change would spoil the letter. I think I am not indebted to you and conclude you do not care to hear from us. But you know I always did like to be contrary and am writing out of spite or rather or because I can get nothing else to do. As I found myself lockedout of the front part of the house. And could gain access to the study only through the kitchen. Our folks have all gone to Mrs. Oaks Yesterday visited at Elder Powers. This is not a specimen of the visiting however. They have made but one befor and that was a deacon Gordons. Ned is quite troublsome yet but is growing better. Albert and myself attendee commencement. Were gone 5 days. Enjoyed the excersizes very much. Our friends wich to be remembered to you. Hanna is mourning because you do not write. She said she told you it would be so. She sends a program. Mr. Allen is very attendtive, No engagement. Sophia Brown is very low with consumption and is thought cannot recover. Nellie Nash died a short ime since. I should think from the account ne rly as Jane did. Emma has graduated a returned a Baptist, united with the chirch in Phila. the last Sabbath in December. It is raining ans the windows are so shaded I can hardly see to write.

Once your Hattie

Ps. Cannot tell when I will be at home. Bettsy thinks it would be hard journey for her and baby.

Not sent through mails
Harpursville
September 2, 1858

Miss Clora Martin

Dear Clora,

Once more I find myself, pen in hand, writing your dear name. Can you tell wherefore. Surely I am not owing you a letter today. But why should I refrain writing the name when its owner so constantly occupies my thoughts. I think of you now anxious and troubled about your sick friends and relatives, and very much wish for the ability to relieve your cares and comfort you. It affords me a great deal of comfort and pleasure to look upon and peruse the lines written by your dear hand. If it affords you one half as much I will not regret writing this. Twenty-eight years old. Is it possible? How varied have been the experiences of 28 years of my life's pilgrimage. Many pleasures and very many pains have been mine. But I still live and am possessed of the capability of enjoying or suffering very much more. And the queries arise. Shall I witness another birthday morning? Will joy or sorrow predominate in the year just entered upon? Shall I have as many sins and shortcomings to mourne or shall I be enabled by grace to prove more faithful? Tis not so much what I have done that I lament as what I have failed to do. My mental powers do not struggle with sufficient resolution against my physical inabilities. I feel there is a need of my accomplishing a great deal but I do a very little. Yet I suppose we shall not be censored for not performing what God has not given us the ability to perform. Yet it often seems, had I been more resolute, I might have accomplished more. May God forgive in that I have failed to improve talents he has entrusted to me. O! It is humiliating. It is all indebtedness on my part. Not one good thing of which to boast. Not one meritorious action to offer. I do not doubt God's ability to save me yet it seems presumptuous to

hope he will. Yet we have this truth, "It is a fateful saying and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Not the righteous sinners Jesus came to call. God grant it may not be said of us or anyone dear to us, "I have called but ye have refused."

I have lately met with the following in the course of my reading, "God made you good and though you should try ever so much, you cannot unmake his doing." Why some should be made good and others continually incline to evil is one of His mysteries. God is good to all. The sun lights every corner of the earth but he does not shine on all the earth at once. We might as well ask why is the earth round? And wonder why God takes from some to give to others. How very little we know and how much more we desire to know. I have often thought it would be one of the greatest of heaven's joys, the unlimitable expansion of our minds, the great increase of knowledge, when freed from the trammels of this mortality.

But to change the topic, if you would find out a woman's real heart you must know what is her ideal standard of a husband. If you lack a subject on which to write please write on this. Adam's wife came from his side. Proof positive that before she came to him the idea of her or the feeling for her was within him and very near the seat of vitality too (very good). She was his helpmeet and very likely helped him into a world of borrowed trouble as wives usually do by giving him some solid troubles to think about (doubtless true, but very ungallant). For sure we are that we never knew a man of any sensibility who could take a moment's comfort in any blessing of God or nature until he could make a confidante of some gentle heart, whether of mother, daughter, sister, sweetheart, or wife (mostly true). The essential fitness of masculine and feminine character for happy union is never so obvious as in the declining years of a couple that God has really joined together in mind and andheart. I will subscribe myself as ever, Yours, yours, yours,

Oscar

At Home, Saturday Evening
September 11, 1858

William Oscar Bancroft
Special Messenger

My dear, dear Oscar,

My feelings are somewhat different tonight than they were when last I sat down to address you. Be not startled at the enunciation, I do not love you less, how could I? Then I did not consider I was addressing a stranger, you were the same loved friend, yet there could not be the same familiar feeling as now. Now I know you to be my nearest, dearest, truest loved one. "There are hearts that run together as the streams of water, hearts that God made to beat side by side and for each other, and cruel seems the absence when stern destiny separates them." And cruel indeed will it seem if another long week intervenes before we meet again, as I fear now will be the case. This is a busy, busy world of ours. If thought could be transfered to paper without the use of hands I should have prepared so lengthy an epistle it would have wearied you to peruse it. Is it not a blessing that we can think of loved ones and our minds may be active on loftier subject while our hands are performing the active duties of life? Were our thoughts always pinned down to our employment, very little time would be found for noble, pure inspiration. For labor is the lot of man. We have been unusually busy for a few days. Have been packing Betsey's things preparing them to start Monday morning next. Were I sure of meeting you tomorrow evening I should think weariness sufficient excuse for not writing so much. But unless brother Stevens is a good deal better in the morning, I shall probably have to stay at home from church or at any rate return here after meeting tomorrow. I am beginning to feel quite alarmed about brother Stevens, though I will not acknowledge it to Lois. Dr. Guy keeps telling us he is about

the same and there has seemed to be no sudden change. Yet I think he is certainly much lower than he was when I came home last Thursday.

O! I do feel to pray earnestly that God will bless the means used for his recovery. And I fear my stubborn, willful heart feels the spirit of rebellion against God's will. We should ever feel to say from the heart when we have offered our earnest request, "Yet, not my will but thine be done."

Sabbath morning. Brother Stevens is about the same this morning, but Lois says I may go to meeting. I would most gladly have written you a longer letter, you must take the will for the deed this time. Perhaps I have written enough. Would that I could give some return for your very satisfactory letters. Who ever advanced the idea that men's letters are unsatisfactory and provoking? Never have had much experience with gentlemen's letters or at least you had never written them. Your letters are certainly not unsatisfactory and if they are provoking they only provoke me to love you more. I must not write more. I must subscribe myself ever thy own,

Clora

September 12, 1858

Dear Clora,

I see from the paper that your association meets at Masonville. I hope you will go if you can and get acquainted with our friend Susan Utley who resides there. I received a letter from her soon after my return home in which she says she hopes to have a visit from me this fall when I visit my old home and said if I would let them know when I would be at Harpursville her pa would meet me there with a carriage. I have not answered her letter. Tell her for me that I would have been glad to have visited her but Mr. Rose could not stay long enough with my two children to visit all of my own sisters. How sad it is that Mary is left a widow. Write and tell me the particulars of M's death. Do write. I am impatient to hear from you all. The church has disciplined Mrs. Sheldon and Ransom and I hope we are to have more peaceable times. Our association meets here this week and we are very busy. Excuse haste.

Yours,

Zada.

Not mailed, sent by messenger
Friday, Sepnember 17, 1858

My Dear Clora,

Yes, mine. How pleasant it is to write feeling a consciousness of its truth. With the pronoun omitted it might be some other Clora. But my heart tells me I can safely place the pronoun there. How can I repay you for the previous letter of the 17th? You may be assured it was attentively perused before seeking my lonely bed. Not however till I had time to thank my maker for his goodness to enjoy your dear society for the evening. It had seemed such a very long time since I had received something from your dear hand. Do please write often. Would that you could realize what a satisfaction it is to me to receive and peruse these tokens of your love and esteem. It is such a pleasure to be able to state that my heart fully responded in every respect to the sentiments so frankly expressed in your letter. "Now I know you to be my dearest, truest, loved one." These words will bear writing and rewriting for they are true. It is inexpressibly sweet to feel that Jesus careth for us. And I never can sufficiently express my gratitude that he has inclined the heart of one of his dear children to care for me in my hour of need. Friendship is sweet, love is sweeter. And true friendship and love combined is - what earthly language cannot fully express. Did I not feel so sure that I should meet you next Sunday evening I should feel I must write a great deal now although it is with great effort that I write at all now. I work very hard (for me). Monday and Tuesday and Wednesday night I slept on the hard side of a narrow board, all which together with severe neuralgic pains in my back and head have made me anything but comfortable. Slept well last night and feel much better today. Had the privilege of listening to some excellent preaching at the Association. Feel that my spiritual strength was renewed.

Had good company going and returning as you know, but need I say my dear Clora was in every thought. With the cold wind, the dust, the rain, the mud and the dense crowd I should have thought it just as well you did not attend, had it not been for the discourse of Elder Wright. O! How gladly would I have had you listen to that. Although it was severely criticized by many it was meat and drink to me. His discourse never was and never should be written for you need to see and hear the man to appriciate him. The most I can say is he preached Jesus.

Sunday the 19th, another delightful Sabbath morning. How our hearts should swell with gratitude of God for his goodness to his erring creatures. A few more Sabbaths here on earth and then shall we enjoy an eternal Sabbath at rest.

I have not much time to write nor much to write of if I had time. Hope you will not count the capital "I's." And he is to give us a temperance lecture this evening.

I wish I knew what arrangements to make for an interview with you this evening. But as I do not I must trust to Providence and I believe it will all be right. If I am disappointed in meeting you this evening I must not be next Sunday, for that will be our last opportunity before our journey. But the bell is ringing and I must close. You must imagine all the love my heart feels, for I cannot express it. It is ever true I love only you.

Ever thine,
Oscar.

Sabbath Evening
September 19, 1858

William Oscar Bancroft

My Dearest Friend,

As it is not mine to enjoy your loved company this evening I know of no better way to drive away the feeling of loneliness which will unavoidably depress my spirits than to take up my pen and converse with you through this medium.

Your kind letter just received has been read and reread until its contents are treasured in my heart. Surely you cannot prize these "tokens of love and esteem" higher than myself. O! How can I be sad while I am sure I have the affection of one true heart. No I am not sad, I only painfully feel the absence of that loved one. I can hardly bear to think of the long weeks to come, ere I can meet you again. But I am not going to be so foolish ---------- Spending the time in vain regrets is not right and certainly adds to no one's happiness. Let me double my diligence, do something daily that is worth doing, and seek for the happiness of those around me. This will make time pass swiftly. "There is more sunshine than shade, more pleasure than pain, more smiles than tears in life." So I have just read and is it not true? I am quite a firm advocate of the theory that "Life is what we make it." At least I think we may "linger around the beds of flowers" that embroider life's pathway, "and skip over the spots of woe." Not dwell upon the ills of life. Clouds will it is true sometimes darken the horizon of every mind which possesses a sinful nature. But is it not in a measure in our power to dispel them? "Tis well to walk with a cheerful heart; where ever our fortune call, with a friendly glance and an open hand; and a cheering word for all."

"Since life is a thorny and difficult path
Where toil is the portion of man,
We all should endeavor while passing along
To make it as smooth as we can."

Yours as ever in love
Clora.

(These letters were not sent through the mails. They were aware of gossipers and, to avoid publicizing their relationship, they sent messages by her sisters or trusted messengers.

The other Martin family expected him to marry a sister of Jane's. They resented his marriage to Clora, Jane's cousin.

Her attitude toward life is marvelous. We both became admirers of her. Too tall, not blessed with beauty, but she had a beautiful attitude toward life. Everyone turned to her for solace and cheer. PMB)

Roseboom
September 25, 1858

Miss Clora A. Martin
Harpursville, Broome Co.

Dear Clora,

It has been a fine day, more than making up for the mist of yesterday. We have had a good covenant meeting, though a good many were absent. For several weeks there has seemed to be an increasing interest in prayer meetings, and today all spoke of the necessity of arising and laboring more earnestly and of their determination to do so. We are hoping to see brighter days. May the Lord hasten it. Today I was received into the church. Oh that the union may prove of mutual benefit. Albert expects to exchange with Elder Bourne tomorrow and intended to go to Leesville tonight, but is out looking for his horse yet (after dark), so of course will not. We have kept house just one week and feel quite at home here. You say you are so lonely. I am very much disappointed in not having you here, for I had not thought it possible for you to be detained. But after all I am surrounded by all I desire save our folks and if they would all write often I would be happy, so happy. Clora, you will not appreciate this until you can have a home and all your dearest friends all to yourself. Yesterday I invited Mrs. Granger, Lane Wilson and Antisdel and Miss Morey and Granger to spend the afternoon. I really felt a little pride when I set my own table. Of course I did my best and we had a pleasant time. Suppose you and Azel and Oscar and Patty call in some afternoon. I will bring out the large table and snowy spread, dishes of the purest white, then the goblets and glass pitcher from which you shall have best water Lodi affords, and to eat whatever the parsonage happens to afford. Albert has just come in. Has found his horse where we visited Thursday, in the meadow where he fed that day. I

do not wonder he wanted to go again for they gave us plum tomatoes for sauce, beets, cabbage and a nice mess of honey and a half bushel of potatoes. Today, a lady who is not a professor of religion sent us for dinner a warm pumpkin pie, and a pan of potatoes as large as I ever saw. We have not yet lacked anything and if the Lord but use us in advancing his cause we may be very happy. I do feel so much like laughing at Luci's enthusiastic expressions as I once did. You must not laugh at me. Try it and see if you do not enjoy your own home. Mary's letter came this morning. If she could see the tears and the earnest petitions at the family alter, I am sure she would feel she was remembered and had sympathy.

Sabbath afternoon. Albert went to Leesville this morning and Elder Bourne preached here. Took dinner with me. I had a good visit with him, his voice is still imperfect but I think it is getting better. This afternoon there has been a Methodist quarterly meeting. And the presiding Elder gave us poor Baptists a real dressing for our self-confidence, as he termed, in saying that God was able to keep his children or that it was not possible for satan to make them fall from grace. He pretended to give numerous examples from scripture, as Alexander and Hymenaeus, the Galatians and Laodiceans. Said it was an incontestable fact that the church in all ages had members fall from grace and it ever would be thus. "They did run well," Galatians 5:7, were true and legal racers but were hindered. He finally said "that man who says I cannot save my own soul, but I shall be kept and shall not fall" proves plainly that he is in the power of the devil and has given himself up to his influence. A large number joined the church (15). Mr. Richardson said he wished the exercises of the S. S. School could be protracted or begin a little later that he might meet them. The children wished him to. And he thought it would be much pleasanter for them and it would for him and probably Brother Martin and the friends would not object. We now have it immediately after morning service, but Albert and Brother Anisdel may attend

before going to Cherry Valley. Richardson claims the school belongs exclusively to him. I felt indignant and took no pains to see him after services. I need more forbearance and love to bear patiently all the Methodists deal out. Elder Smith preached on perseverance of the saints here, and the class leader was offended and the presiding Elder is his cousin. And stopped with him and probably feels he has given a death blow to that pernicious doctrine but he may hear from it again. When will the time come when God's people will see eye to eye?

October 2. This has been a busy week. Every day I have determined to finish this but something has prevented. Monday washed a large washing and baked five pies. Tuesday ironed and baked bread. Wednesday visited all day and went to prayer meeting in the evening, two miles from here. Thursday made use of a peck of pears in pickles and sauce. Had Elder Bourne here most of the day, and Sister Oaks all night and till the morning. I have cut four fine shirts for Albert this week, and have nearly finished one. Mean to make one each week until they are finished. You see I am putting a finish on this that it may be finished in time to be mailed this afternoon.

I scalded my right hand quite badly last week which has been rather tedious but I have used it well this week. Getting better. Sister Morey came in last evening bringing ten pounds of nice honey in the comb and some meal. Sister Oaks brought a large pail of large apples and three or four pounds of honey. The people will spoil us I fear. Oh, how I want to be good, and every such token of remembrance makes me try harder to be a good minister's wife. My Clora, I need your prayers that I may be more holy. The people are grumbling because I do not call on them. Some think it is because they are so poor and others that I am not at all social. This afternoon I intend to call on Dr. Stirica's and Mr. Granger's and Mr. Howlands. Write soon!

Betsey

Delavan
September 28, 1858

Mary Ann Blakeslee

Dear Sister,

Frederick has informed me of your great loss. I know not what to say. God lives, Jesus is on the mercy seat. You know the worth of prayer. You know when to look for the exceeding great and precious promises. You need not be assured of my sympathy and my readiness to assist you if it is within my power.

Frederick and wife were with us four days. The time was too short for much talk. But we improved the time as best we could.

They left yesterday for Waukegan, then they go by way of Michigan home. We had a first rate visit only it was too short.

Write as soon as you can and make Clora write. It is late in the evening and I have worked hard all day shingling the house for one of the neighbors. I just completed one letter before this and ought to write another before going to bed.

Pray for us. Goodnight.

Sanford.
(Rev. Samuel Sanford Martin)

(Mary Ann Martin's first husband was Marcus Blakeslee, her second was John Maynard Stevens; this being his second marriage also, for his first wife was Mary Ann's sister, Lois Martin. PMB)

(Frederick Martin and Eliza Tyrrell, his wife.)

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Mrs. Clora M. Bancroft Hamilton
Harpursville, N.Y.

Much Loved Clora,

Again I am reminded of the uncer'ainty of life bu the sudden death of a school mate. One week ago today she w as in her ussual place at school, this afternoon her lifleless form was borne to her realitives in Cassanovia. This her firwt term in school. She boarded at Elder Hughes. I preseume she was a Universalist. As I have thought of her death I have asked myself the question, what did I do for her conversion? Nothing! ------

I am very sad when I think of my indifference in the cause of Christ. Once did I love to speak of him, pnce did I love to tell my unconverted friends of their danger. But now it is with reluctance that I perform any of these duties. Of late I have often wished I could see you that we might in unison lift our voices to him who heareth the prayer of faith. That as I heard your earnest supplications ascend to the thoane of Grace, with you heart, warm with love to God; I might be revived. Tuesday eve.

Mr. Allen called Friday evening, perhaps that acounts for my feeling better. He stayed till eleven oclock. But that is nothing strange for him you know. He likes to visit.

Mr. Allen and myself are good friends, perhaps more like brother and sister; brother William is west so you see I need a substitute. It is true we have been together a great deal of late. Which has occasioned some talk. More than we ever shallagain perhaps. Miss Wallace has not been able to be in school for several weeks on acco nt of her lungs. It is thought she will not be able to be in school this term and perhaps never. I do not know what our class can do withouther.

Miss Brown has returned from her school in New Jersey, her health isvery poor. She has a very hard cough. She is not able to go back. I like to fortot to tell you that Miss Hopkins and myself are Presidents of the Societies. L have just returned from our meeting. The 6 delphia still prospers.

You know we always depended on you for some thing funny. (forthe publication) But if you cannot send something ------ We cannot get along without help from some of the old members. Hannah.

Greece, N. Y.
October 3, 1858

Miss Clora Martin
Colesville, Broome Co., N. Y.

Dear Sister,

We are well and very happy. Many things conspire to make us happy. Among these, it is at the least at the prospect which is opening for us to have our sister with us during the winter. I have but a few moments to write and I must hasten to tell you. Mr. Rose is very much engaged in an argument (her husband) with one of our neighbors on the subject of total depravity and they are talking loud and long. The trustees of this district met here this evening to talk over the propriety of hiring Mrs. Rose's sister. They think they would like to have you come and teach their school and say they will pay $4.00 a week and have you board yourself. They wish you to commence Monday the 16th if possible, but a few days later will make no difference. We would gladly come home and accompany you if it were consistent for us to do so, but it will probably not be possible for us to. If you will leave home on Friday and take the first train at Binghamton, you will reach Rochester the same evening, where we will meet you in the depot. When you reach there go into the ladies' room and remain a few minutes so we may be able to find you. Should we not meet you there you had better take a hack and go to Mr. Benjamin's, #16 Canal Street, where we will make arrangements to receive you.

Should you be delayed on the road you might have to stop at Canandoga overnight (which I hope not), but this will not kill you if you keep cool (a thing you will find difficult unless the weather changes). There will be porters, lots of them. Tell them what you want and what you must have and on what terms. For instance, your supper and lodging. The hints, dear sister, will not be useless to one who has not

traveled. You will remember to change cars at Elmira and have your trunk rechecked. We are already in high glee at the prospect of your being so soon with us. You do not need to be reassured of our delight and your welcome. Drop us a line at once and tell us if you can meet this arrangement. If any other day would suit you better. If we do not hear to the contrary we will go to the depot on Friday evening next week, expecting to meet you and if we do not find you, you will stay with Mr. Benjamin till the morning train. We were glad to hear of father's improved health. Give our love and best wishes to him and the family. Tis now late and we are preparing for association in the morning.

As ever,

Henry and Zada.

We might send money to bear your expenses but it probably would not be as safe as for you to borrow for the present. Don't start with less than $10.00. The association is 15 miles away and I must get ready. Perhaps Jane Bishop is coming to Pennfield and will come with you.

Rose.

October 3, 1858

Dear One,

Sabbath evening finds me alone, seated by the window that overlooks the quiet little villa which you call home. And never was the scene more beautiful. Nature when clad in her autumnal robes appears even more lovely, even than the freshness of spring. Let the dejected and hopeless talk of the gloom of autumn. My spirits are generally more buoyant than at any other season. The shades of evening are gathering fast. And as I have been sitting here thought has been busy, living over again the past, the pleasant hours spent with you. While imagination has been painting the scenes with which you are now surrounded in a strange land. My spirit is with thine, dearest, tonight. Spirits so closely bound together by friendship and love as ours cannot be separated though many miles separate their clay caskets. I do not think I envy you in your happiness, journeying at this delightful season, and yet I cannot help thinking almost constantly how pleasant it would seem could I claim my place in your company for I feel the assurance it would not detract from your happiness. (Is it presumptuous for me to feel I were already one of you?) When I first came from meeting a feeling of sadness almost insupportable came over me at the thought I could not see you tonight. But it has indeed been clearing to feel we may, though sundered far, meet by faith around one common mercy seat. Yes dear Oscar I felt you would not forget to pray for me, unworthy me, tonight. How sustaining and cheering the thought has been to me I cannot express to you.

Elder Reynolds has not yet returned. Hence there was no meeting at our church today. We went to hear Mr. Brigham, after sermon went to the Baptist house where the choir met to sing. I need not tell you we missed you.

Friday. I cannot retire tonight without bidding you a loving goodnight. I came over here to Brother Stevens last

Tuesday morning. Had a fine morning walk. Now I can see you look reprovingly, but let me tell you I do not intend to take so long a walk often. My anxiety to hear from Brother Stevens was great and the walk did not hurt me. Found him gaining quite fast. Went out of doors today for the first time. Harriett has stayed with me every night since I came over until tonight.

October 31. When I commenced this I intended to write some every few days so as to keep you informed as to what has occurred since you left and perhaps fill three or four sheets for your perusal. But I have been so busy I have neglected writing. Went down to the office last evening and received your previous letter. You can imagine perhaps how much good it did me to hear from you after five long weeks of absence. Hoping to see you very soon, I will close this unsatisfactory communication by subscribing myself as ever,

Yours in unchanging love,
Clora.

1858-9

Accounts Due Bancroft and Martin, Nov.1

L. Alexander	24.25	Wm.Alexander	17.34
A.W.Alvord	7.03	G.B.Allen	1.63
Ad. Austin	1.20	J.D.B.	62.32
W. O. B.	35.44	Carl Bishop	17.76
Jno. F. Bishop	34.44	J.C.Blanchard	3.22
M. D.Blanchard	2.76	Wm.Benedict	6.12
H. Blakeslee	1.50	L Brown	5.35
R. Butts	2.00	Jno Bunce	9.23
L. Barnes	1.41	J.C.BrAinard	5.30
George Collington	19.32	W.W.Cowdery	48.85
Betty Chaffee	15.53	John Carl	38.79
Isaac Carl	12.64	M.G.Croby	1.50
G.Crowel	1.87	G.Davis	.38
E.Dat 27	.27	J.L.Dort	7.37
M. Deland	.87	E.M.Dick	.10
G.E.Dibble	1.69	L.Eldred	1.85
A,B.Edson	.15	Jas. Fuller	1.54
G.W.Freeman	2.27	J.W.Flanebaugh	6.87
G.Givens	2.87	Rob rt Harper	32.06
Robert G. Harper	35.42	Ed Harper	57.59
B.Havens	6.90	A Harrington	1.25
G. Handy	2.84	E. Hicks	14.16
H, Holcomb	3.98	G.W.Hakes	11.55
G. Hard	1.78	Wm.Rales	1.28
A.Rask	.63	E.Rasson	.64
J. Kelley	2.66	D.F.Leach	18.69
H.Lovejoy	1.63	M.S.Merwin	57.14
M.& B.	21.40	O.Morris	.13
W.E.Martim	10.35	G.Maremis	1.46
H.D.Montgomery	4.04	Henry Merritt	.16
H.Merritt	1.36	G,Bellingham	3.34
D.Morrison	5.25	Edwin NOrthrop	5.80
L.Northrop	3.06	E. Patrick	134.25
B.Pratt	3.44	Wm.Pearsall	1.75
S.Pearsall	.59	P.Fitzpatrick	.98
FitzPatrick	.18	Widow Porter	1.69
W.Pratt.	.50	Pearsall & Havens	.75
D.W.P.	14.00	L.Posten	2.59
A Posten	1.41	L.M.Pratt	1.25
L.Robinson	3.15	D.H.Rodes	.50
S.S,Randall	4.82	Josiah Stevens	7.12
O.D.Sewar	.28	Bill Schuster	.50
H. Sanders	7.98	C.P.Stevens	2.25
S. Sornborger	2.90	Widow Tubbs	28.39
Clark	3.22	S. Thomson	2.24
H.Marshall	4.08	Meeting house	1.69
Frank Thompson	7.75	John Thomspn	.58
B. Tyrrell	.56	G,M.Tyrrell	2.38
H. Maness	4.31	Geo. Wilcox	1.06
H.A.Wakeman	7.98	G.A.Wakeman	1.18
H.G.Webster	4.26	A. Webster	4.85
J. E.Welton	9.11	W.Wasson	4.00
W. S, Wedge	2.18	Daniel Yager	.73
Asa Yager	1.37	R. Youngs	.42
L..Eldred	.31	A Eldred	1.28
G.R. Hare	.25	Misc	16.60

$1,006.44

Elegance on the Bancroft Table

This beautiful china graced the table of Doctor J.D.Bancroft at the height of his professional career. It was purchased in New York City having been imported from England where it had been manufactured in the Staffordshire Potteries by Thomas, John and Joseph Mayer in the Furlong Works and Dale Hall Pottery, Burstem . Florentine is the pattern name. c. 1843-1855. This information was provided by Mrs. Potter, of the "Collections" division of the Nebraska State Historical Society.

Candlesticks

These candlesticks were given to Elizabeth by Caty, the daughter of Dr. J.D.Bancroft. She, the wife of the emminent theologian Alva Sabin Hobart, had given Hobart memorabilia to the Hobarts so we assume these beautiful objects were of Bancroft origin.

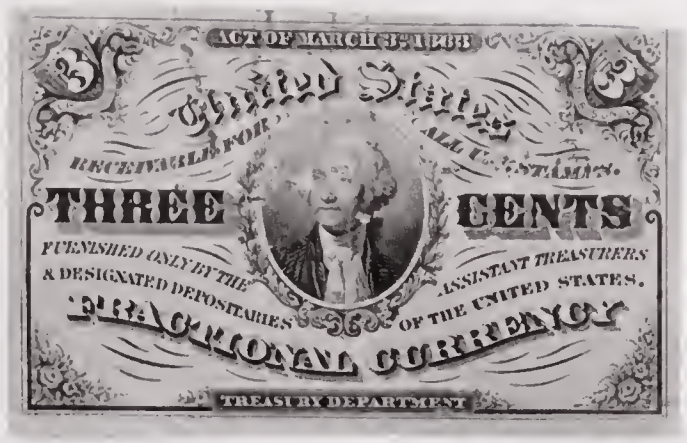
Laura Birdsall Bancroft, the doctor's wife, Caty, their daughter and Clora Martin Bancroft, Oscar's wife all had attended "Female seminaries" where they studied art, music, domestic skills, manners and French. They were well prepared to assist in bringing cultural refinement into a rude pioneer society.

At this time the doctor bought a reed organ on which all three women were proficient, an accordion for Oscar and a flute. All were vocalists. They played the organ for church services and all sang in the choir. This home became the happy meeting place for the popular "Singing - schools"and many other social events.

I am fearful that 20th Century readers may get the impression that these people had a morbid preoccupation with death and that their religion counted wordly pleasures sinful. Nothing could be farther from the truth. They had many enjoyable occasions in spite of hardships that would seem unbearable to us, but normal to pioneer life.

Currency

These "Shin plasters" of 3, 5 and 10 cent denomination and coins of ½. 1, 3, 5, and 10 cent were useful currency in 1850 when a laborer would work a ten hour day for $1.00 and the doctor would drive out to a farm home to care for a sick person for $1.00 or deliver a baby for $3.00

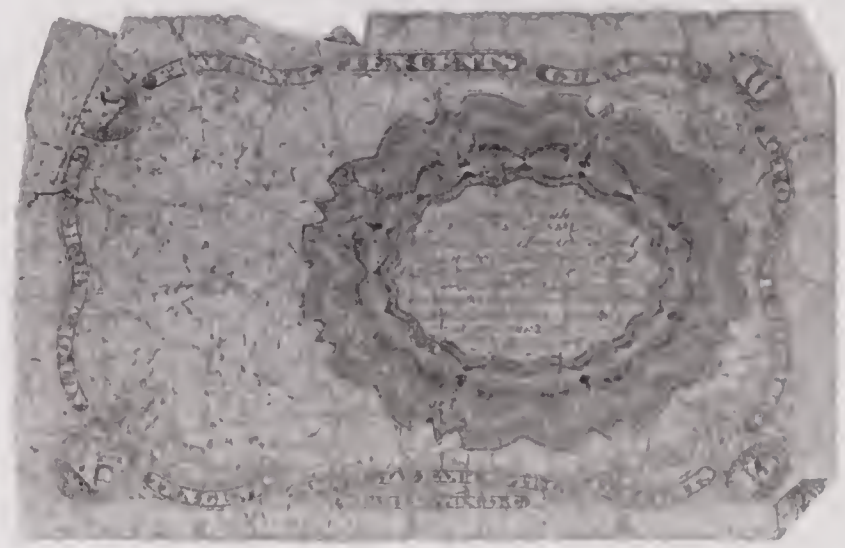

ACT OF MARCH 3rd 1863
United States
RECEIVABLE FOR ALL U.S. STAMPS.
THREE CENTS
FURNISHED ONLY BY THE ASSISTANT TREASURERS & DESIGNATED DEPOSITARIES OF THE UNITED STATES.
FRACTIONAL CURRENCY
TREASURY DEPARTMENT

UNITED STATES NOTES
BY ASSISTANT TREASURERS AND DESIGNATED DEPOSITARIES OF THE UNITED STATES
3
RECEIVABLE IN PAYMENT OF ALL DUES TO THE UNITED STATES LESS THAN FIVE DOLLARS
EXCEPT CUSTOMS.

POSTAGE CURRENCY
furnished only by the
ASSISTANT TREASURERS AND DESIGNATED DEPOSITARIES OF THE U.S.
5
U.S. POSTAGE
FIVE CENTS
RECEIVABLE FOR POSTAGE STAMPS AT ANY POST OFFICE

Exchangeable for United States Notes by any Assistant Treasurer or designated U.S. Depositary in sums not less than FIVE DOLLARS.
5
Receivable in payment of all dues to the U.States less than Five Dollars.
ACT APPROVED JULY 17, 1862.

UNITED STATES
CENTS
FRACTIONAL CURRENCY



882 341

Nov 8

Wm Oscar Bancroft
Harpursville, N.Y.

November 1858
Roseboom, N.Y.
Otsefo County

Dear Brother Bancroft,
This (Monday evening) is my time for writing letters but I do not feel in a mood for it hardly, yet will not delay longer. Each day has brought its cares and I have not written We are as well as usuall and trying to do as well as we know how. The weather is wet, rainhng now, the roads extremely muddy. In the morning I expect to start for Worcester to attend the minis-erial conference. We ar hoping for better dyys here and have some reason for hope I think. Our meeting are well attended, prayer meetings full ad interesting. I have preached three eveings at a school house within the bounds of the church and things look favorable. Some a re feeling deeply and christians appear to be awake. I should look for a good time if all were Baptists and they are not and what will be done I do not know. Methodists tattle here, And when they are doing this they are not praying. Nor exerting a good influence over impenitent persons. Our bretheren arevery kind here. We do not lack for temperal things. Garden sauce comes in in abundance together with apples and potatoes and just what we need. We have no qhoir her3 because we have no leader. I have often wished you were here totake charge of the singing in the Sabbath school. The Methodists have tried to keep the school under their influence. The superintendent is a mrthodist because we do not have a brother adapted to the plce Let me tell you what I would like provided you would think it best. That is, to have you come here and fillmup a store house that is nw now empty. There is no store and the people wich one as soon as possible. Brother Granger used totrade here and did well until he moved on to a farm. The post ofice is kept at the store. Mr. Dickinson has no capitale to deal with and must give it up. If you were doing business here I would be very glad for more reasins than one. Please excuse this hasty sheet.

Your friend and brother in Christ
Albert

Monday Afternoon
Southfield
November 22, 1858

Dearly loved Clora,

How can I thank you enough for your daguerreotype which I received last mail day. I kissed you again and again, yes and more than that I shed many tears over them. They were not tears of sorrow but of heartfelt joy. Clora, you are a darling good girl and it will often afford me much pleasure to look upon that face, ever beaming with token of kindness and friendship. It seemed when I looked at you that you could almost speak. You shall certainly have one from me as soon as I can go to Detroit and have one taken. Sophie Jackson has been to see me and I enjoyed her visit very much. She has a sister in Detroit and I spent a week with old acquaintenances managing to see her every day. We talked of going to a degaradian gallarie to have our shadows taken. But it seemed it was not so to be for it rained every time we intended to go. We did not have them taken after all. I was sorry for I wanted to secure hers before she left.

Clora, I am glad you are determined to be a faithful correspondant. I will promise you that you shall never have reason to call me negligent if I am able to write, but willingly answer your kind remembrances the day they should come like drops of rain.

I am pleased to hear that Betsey is enjoying life as well and my wish is that her life may be ever thus, a life of sunshine. Perhaps the honeymoon will make some difference but I hardly think it will with her. When you visit her, visit for me won't you, and tell her that I should be pleased to receive a letter from her. I do not remember who your sister Mary married if you ever told me. Where does she live?

I have not heard from Hamilton in some time. I must think my correspondants are growing very negligent there. I

wish we could step in and give Professor a surprise. Do you suppose he would give a seat on the rostrum, that the young ladies might gaze at us? You must not talk about my committing matrimony for I have no such intentions and when I have you shall know it. Nor is it more than fair that you should do the same for me? I am first rate to keep a secret. Try me. There was a wedding in our neighborhood a few weeks ago, a Mr. Shepherd and Miss Bramble. She willing left the bramble bush and entered the sheep fold. Colder weather is coming and perhaps she thought it would be more comfortable. Am I so mean? I did not mean to be, but I thought of it. You must let it pass.

We have had but very little snow this winter. I am in hopes we shall have some good sleighing. We anticipate having lively times this winter. Singing school, writing schools, etc. are the order of the day. I expect to be attending singing school next Wednesday evening. Mother's sister came with her from Willett and is going to spend the winter with us. Father, mother, auntie and sister Ann are going to Walled Lake Wednesday to visit a cousin and spend Thanksgiving Day. Just call in and I will give you a piece of chicken pie. Here comes a young lady with her face tied up and pa must be called to extract a tooth and here comes a man with a felon on his hand and the next job will be to cut that open. There is little sickness around.

I have been doing a large washing and am very tired. Still I mean to write to Hattie. Please excuse imperfections and write soon.

Your ever true friend,
Sarah M. Jeffery

Harpursville
November 30, 1858

My own dearest one,

It seems a very long time since something fresh from your pen has gladdened my heart. I say fresh from your pen, for it has not been a very long time since your letters have brought gladness to my lonely heart. Why lonely? Do I not feel your influence every hour of my life? I would be sensible of your bodily presence as well as spiritual. In reviewing our acquaintanceship, I can clearly see the hand of providence owning and blessing it. We are so truly wedded in sight of heaven that the legal ceremony can make very little difference in our feeling. The sky is perfectly clear this morning and the stars which but a moment since were so brilliant, their sparkling beauty exceeding the luster of the diamond, are now paling before the advancing light of the king of day. May not my sorrows (although conscious that like the stars they still exist) thus fade away and become obscured from my mental vision in the increasing joys which consistent social intercourse with thee, my dearly loved, shall afford. Were I not suspicious of my own judgment in a case where my feelings are so directly interested, I should think it our duty to marry this minute. It seems very clearly our duty to add to each other's happiness by every means in our power, does it not? Then why should we be continually unhappy and miserable by continuing separated when there is apparently no reason why we should be? But I think I have confidence that God will direct us. You can little realize how much happiness it affords me to perceive in you such a cheerful willingness to identify yourself with our family. Very many young wives esteem it a great hardship to have anything to do with or for their husband's parents. However, circumstances materially alter cases, situated as I am with my knowledge

of my parents' wishes. I could not marry a wife who would not assist me in my discharge of my filial obligations. But dear Clora I do not fear to trust you. You have never disappointed me yet, only in being better, much better than I deserve. I trust I appreciate you, my darling, but enough of this. I had thought to sketch for you for your amusement a brief account of our journey, but doubt my ability to make it interesting:

September 28. It was two o'clock on a lovely afternoon when Dr. Bancroft, wife, son and daughter, seated themselves in their covered carriage which afforded security from sun and storm, and gave their home (which never looked more pleasant) a somewhat reluctant farewell look, for an absence of some weeks. But the untried future was before us, and we looked forward with hope. After a pleasant and somewhat rapid and fatiguing trip of 6 hours up the beautiful valley of the Susquehanna and one of its tributaries, we reached the pleasant home of a very dear cousin of mine. After a cordial welcome and a pleasant social chat, I was shown to my room, which chanced to be one occupied on a former occasion by self and wife. Then later, some six months, a happy spirit in realms of light, I was sad and lonely. I had anticipated so much future happiness and been so grievously disappointed. Was it to be ever thus? Now the cup of happiness was again offered to my life in the love of another of earth's choice spirits. Was this happiness to be alike evanescent? Oh, how difficult to say, "Thy will, oh Lord, be done," when that will is adverse to our wishes. But sorrow endureth for a night and joy cometh in the morning. (Sometimes)

September 29. A beautiful morning. A ride of about 3 miles brought us to the home of an uncle, a much esteemed brother of my dear mother. The day was pleasantly passed in friendly conversation. And in witnessing the orderly working of a large well managed farm in which I took a

special interest, having spent three summers of my life in assisting to bring it to its present state of order.

September 30. Another beautiful morning dawned upon us, although some signs of a gathering storm were apparent. Rain is very much needed as farmers are very much pinched by the drought. Soon after daylight we were again on the road. And now it seemed that the last link was severed that bound us to home, and we were fairly adrift in the stream of travel. Our route for three hours crossed the hills, covered by good farms which lie between the Butternut Creek at Gilbertsville and the Susquehanna River at Oneonta. A few miles below which place we commenced traveling on the best worked road it was ever my good fortune to see. Oneonta is a pleasant village situated on quite rolling ground containing three business centers designated by the somewhat singular appelatives, upper deck, lower deck and middle deck. It contains three rather neat church edifices, a number of tasty well built stores, hotels, mechanic shops, etc. Also several pretty private residences, among the most noteworthy being that of E. R. Ford Esq., notable as a railroad projector. Large square structure built of smooth brown stone, situated on ground gently rising from the street. The grounds are tastefully laid out, containing fountain, fish pond and hydraulic works for forcing water up to the house. Mr. Ford is a member of the Baptist Church and well known for his integrity and sterling worth. About three miles above Oneonta and following the Catskill Turnpike, we leave the valley of the Susquehanna, turning in an easterly direction, up the Charlotte Creek. At the corner where we leave the river road a somewhat noted innkeeper (Emmons) has planted a model fountain for the use of wayfarers in a strong basin some 6" across brimming with transparent water. Watering troughs are not as frequent as they would be were the land owners more considerate of the convenience of travelers and it is rare that we see one so

liberal a plan as this. Our route the remainder of the day lay through a country not particularly attractive to the eye of a farmer, there being an abundance of hemlock logs and stumps and the ground when cleared was stony, very stony. We noted some large farms without a rod of fence save stone walls. And although fence in very small lots, yet there seemed to be a diminution of the stone from the surface of the ground. Father says why do men stay here when they have to labor so hard to get a living, when less outlay of physical strength on fertile acres in the West would repay 100 fold? The road however was free from stones and the substantial covered bridges gave evidence that labor had not been expended in vain for the comfort of travelers. We stopped for dinner in East Davenport, Delaware County. We were favored by some music from the landlord's daughter, who played the melodian with a spirit and skill that only those which have an innate perception of the beauties of musical harmonies can acquire. While slowly winding up the long hill beyond Harpursfield Center one of the most violent thunder gusts I have ever seen took us. It had followed us up the valley. Being under cover we had not observed it until it was almost upon us. Providentially a farmer and his son were standing by a wagon house and availing ourselves of their kind permission we were just safely housed when the gale burst upon us with all its fury. The face of nature was immediately enshrouded in Egyptian darkness. The rain fell in torrents, the vivid lightning flashed, accompanied by heavy peals of thunder. We soon gave up all idea of going farther that night. The people were poor and could not afford us the accomodations we would have chosen, but they were friendly and willing to do the best they could, and we were so thankful for any shelter at the time to be critical. Feeling very weary, I soon retired for rest. With the music of the falling rain on the roof sounding in my ears, was soon lost in sleep.

October 1. A gentle rain falling, which the thirsty earth drinks joyfully, and all nature seems to smile, conscious of our heavenly Father's goodness. The dust which had been a source of discomfort will not discommode us more on this journey. We have listened to a good bit of complaining on account of the drought. Shall we now hear a like number of expressions of gratitude? The rain continued most of the forenoon. Not enough to render traveling unpleasant until we were near Prattsville, where we were expecting to stop. It rained powerfully when we drove up to the inn and we began to doubt the propriety of driving any further. Which as we were already behind our plans by reason of the storm would interfere with our arrangements materially. But after enjoying an excellent dinner and giving our horses a good rest, the rain ceased and so again proceeded on our way. But now arose a perplexing question for decision. About two miles beyond Prattsville two roads meet. Which to take? If we took the left we would be sure of a good road, sure to reach our friend in season to spend Sabbath and of reaching New York in season for the anniversary. If we took the right as we had anticipated doing, we should be assured of traveling at night on a strange and rough road. And if it should rain or be cloudy we would lost one great object of our journey this way, a view from the Catskill Mountain house. When we arrived at the fork it looked very much like clearing off, so we took the road to the right. But it did not clear off and we did have to ride in the dark and rain upon a strange rough road. But we have not regretted turning as we did. The inn at Harpersfield was closed and we learned that the owner had fallen victim to his own traffic. How sad but who will take warning? We passed in the forenoon a small but very pretty village known as the Head of the Delaware, near to which is a small meadow and two springs of water, the water of one running south by way of the Delaware to the ocean, from the

other north by way of Schoharie Creek to the Mohawk, thence east to the Hudson, then south to the ocean. Prattsville is noted as still the residence of its founder, the honorable Zadoc Pratt, the successful tanner whose likeness ornaments almost every bar room in the state. But the hemlock bark has gone. Tanning has ceased to be profitable and the village is in decay. It is situated on the Schoharie Creek, the hills coming very near, bold, rocky and bare. Many tired bleached trunks of long since dead hemlock, giving the face of nature at this season of the year a very desolate appearance. The country around is not adapted to tillage. As a consequence, when manufacturing ceases the village must cease to be a place of importance. Mr. Pratt has his profile upon a ledge of rocks east of the village and a path cut to it. We did not visit it. It is difficult to distinguish any resemblance to the human form divine from the turnpike. It look like an unsightly blot on the face of nature. Perhaps I am unjust. I will quote the opinion of a much better judge, "The scenery around Prattsville is surpassing beautiful. I would like to give you a pen sketch of the glorious panorama that was spread before me as I stood at the summit of Pratt's rock and saw the mighty wall of mountains that circled us on every side and the Schoharie winding along the valley like a silver thread, sparkling in the sunlight and throwing its joyous murmur on the air." But I must hasten. We proceeded up the Schoharie hill through the township of Lexington in which I was very much disappointed. I have often heard it spoken of as an old settled county. It used to send a goodly number of young men and maidens to the Delaware Literary Institute in my schoolboy days, and I anticipated finding a good farming country at least. The hills rise abruptly from the creek and are bold and rocky. We traveled at one time two or three miles close to the bed of the creek with the rocks overhanging us, sometimes sheltering the whole road track.

heat and the tumult and unwholesome atmosphere of the crowded city without rushing into the equally disagreeable hubbub and splendid discomfort of fashionable watering places. (Where will they sleep, what will they eat?) It is situated in an elevated valley on the banks of the Schoharie, 22 miles south west of Catskill." The Schoharie is a swift rushing and at times turbulent stream, taking real improper liberties with fences, sheds and mills, and occasionally plowing up the fertile intervals along its banks. And in the place of the rich loam, fat with the vegetable deposit of a century, leaving an acre or two of round stones, worn smooth by the attrition of the waters. On the south the village is sentineled by lofty mountains, while to the north stretch away a range of hills dotted with orchards, farmhouses forming a pleasant contrast to the precipitous wood crowned heights that come crowding down almost to the southern bank of the stream. The woods for miles and miles as far as the eye could reach were one mass of rich dark virtue on which the shimmering light of a Sabbath morning lay like a visible holiness, while the deep stillness that pervaded the landscape suggested the idea that nature herself was wrapped in the hush of constant worship." Perhaps she was asleep, though I quote this fully in order that you may see how the pen of a ready writer can discover and paint beauties while the unappreciative ordinary mind will only notice the unattractive features. However it may be if I had seen it in the shimmering sunlight of a Sabbath morning instead of the gloomy twilight which preceded a dark rainy night I might have been more favorably impressed. But now we come to scenery I can appreciate, although I lack the power to describe. After obtaining information for our guidance, feeling thankful that it is well with us.

October 2. How much better than our fears. A high wind is blowing and quite cold, but the sky is clear. We shall be able to view the desired prospects. After an

I should judge in times of freshets the road to be unpassable. We reached the village of Hunter about dusk. Here again I was disappointed. Mr. Edwards of the firm of Dixon-Edwards, editors of Putnam's Monthly, School Fellow, etc. and formerly a classmate of mine, claimed this as his birthplace and residence until after he had finished his collegiate course when he went to New York City. He was always the most expensively dressed, the most aristocratic person in our class. I had therefore supposed, taking him as its representative, that Hunter must be quite a place. After traveling far enough to be sure we must be near it we came to a few scattered houses of small size and exceedingly rusty appearance. Seeing an old man by the side of the road who looked like poverty personified or the victim of discouraging circumstances, I ventured to ask him how far it was to Hunter. "You're in it now," said he. A little further and we came to the ruins of a tannery, also two dwellings that gave evidence of the last of their occupants in the days of their prosperity. But the public house looked so forbidding that we concluded to venture Father Dominic Huntington came from this place to Harpursville, but where his church parish was is a mystery to me. We were now fairly among the mountains which loomed up in awful grandeur on every side. We would have prefered daylight but we were in for it. After a long weary ride we arrived at an inn known as Gray's Cottage. In the elegant comforts we found ample recompense for the discomforts of the day. We were again favored, the rain coming down heavily accompanied by wind. Soon after safely housed. Never seen a nicer public house. While we are enjoying the comforts of "mine Inn" I will return and again quote in order to do justice to Hunter. "The Village of Hunter is worthy of a passing notice (which we gave, for we passed it as quick as we could). The salubrity of its air and the picturesque beauty of its scenery must yet make it a favorite resort for people who wish to escape from the

excellent breakfast we were again on the move, the wind being to our backs, we did not suffer from the cold. We are indeed highly favored. October is again with us. The month of all the twelve most varied, most masked in all the scenic effectives of air or foliage. Worth to the observer of nature any two of its fellows. How beautiful the dreamy haze on the distant hills. How gloriously beautiful the tints of the forests. The beauty of the coloring that no painter can equal. The clear atmosphere not only gives a peculiar beauty to every landscape but braces the system to atone, which renders vigorous exercise a pleasure. There is no season in which a journey into the country as the last days of September and the first of October. We have now reached the summit of the mountains and are rapidly approaching the falls of the Catskills. Father has just been recounting his first visit to them. Their party consisted of himself, his brother, Wife and son, the latter a few years younger than father, and a colored servant named Luke from their family and a party of New Yorkers visiting at their house, making two carriage loads. The turnpike had been cut through, then abandoned and they had temporarily to bridge some of the ravines before they could cross, and when after much fatigue they arrived at the falls the hand of man had not been there to prepare the way as it had for us. They were obliged to content themselves with merely approaching the precipice and looking over, not being able to get down to the foot of the fall. Editor Beebe of the Register visited them some time in the fall of 1846-47, gave a very minute and glowing description of them, even counted the steps to get to the bottom of the ravine. I would gladly refer to it now to get the statistics. About 30 years ago a young Dutchman from Catskill, Peter Shutt, was hunting in the mountains, came to the falls and was struck by their beauty. He finally came there and built a hotel called the Laurel House, worked an excellent road from there to the

turnpike, built stairs, made paths etc. Now all their beauties can be viewed with ease and comfort. He knew most of father's old friends of Catskill so that on the whole we found it more pleasant than anticipated. He keeps a registry. At the foot of the upper fall is a large circular basin or ampitheater of prominade under the rocks back of the falls. If you are tall you will have to stoop. Water falls nearly 200 feet this first leap and nearly 100 the next and from the foot of the lower fall, the effect of the combination is imposing. But we must away for the mountain house.

Oscar.

Lodi, Dec. 7, 1858

Dear Sister,

I have been very careless in answering your last - But I have been hoping to see you. We did think of coming down this week but the people wished to make us a donation and are preparing to do so Thursday evening. Tomorrow will be a busy day as they are coming to our house. We would have been as well pleased to have met them at the meeting house. But it did not suit the people. Mr. Francis has kindly offered his house but we have move and arrange things before and after. I wish you could be here and yet it may save you some mortification. I am to act in a new sphere and hardly know what is expected of me. Some three or four are feeling deeply troubled on account of sin. Sometimes we feel that God is about to save souls in our midst. But again our faith is wavering because professing Christians are on such low ground and daily filling the mouths of the impenitent with railing against religion by their inconsistant walk. Do pray for us that God will remember us in mercy. What are the prospects of the church there? Does Elder Reynolds remain. Have they any prayer meetings in the Martin neighborhood. We probably cannot come down this winter and I can be contented here if we can be useful. I have felt anxious to see you lately. And you cannot tell how much I mean by this unless you have felt the same yearning of soul. Sometimes on Sabbath afternoon it seems that it were a necessity of my being, to hear the melodian and sing with Clora. But after all I am happy and you must not be offended when I say I have not the least desire to be there if I must be separated from these here. Why can't you come to see how we live. It is just a pleasant ride and it would do us good at least. There are many things I could write but the stage will leave and work is pressing. I think of Irene a great deal. I was so glad you had found time to help her some. I would like to run in and sew for her some day. But I am tolerably busy. Albert has to preach tomorrow and Friday evening. Mr. Richardson says he will be here Thursday evening. Tell Mary to write. She always says something so good and it is just what we need. You need not read this to her for she would say "Pshaw". Excuse haste.

Mrs Betsy (Martin) Martin

she married a cousin
Rev. albert Martin

November 8, 1858
Roseboom, N. Y.
Orange County

William Oscar Bancroft
Harpursville, N. Y.

Dear Brother Bancroft,

This (Monday evening) is my time for wrining letters but I do not feel in a mood for it hardly, yet will not delay longer. Each day has brought its cares and I have not written. We are as well as usual and trying to do as well as we know how. The weather is wet, raining now, the roads extremely muddy. In the morning I expect to start for Worcester to attend the ministerial conference. We are hoping for better days and have some reason for hope I think. Our meetings are well attended, prayer meetings full and interesting. I have preached three evenings at a schoolhouse within the bounds of the church and things look favorable. Some are feeling deeply and Christians appear to be awake. I should look for a good time if all were Baptists and they are not, and what will be done I do not know. Methodists tattle here. And when they are doing this they are not praying, now exerting a good influence over impenitent persons. Our brethren are very kind here. We do not lack for temporal things. Garden sauce comes in in abundance together with apples and potatoes and just what we need. We have no choir here because we have no leader. I have often wished you were here to take charge of the singing in the Sabbath school. The Methodists have tried to keep the school under their influence. The superintendent is a Methodist because we do not have a brother adapted to the place. Let me tell you what I would like provided, you would think it best. That is, to have you come here and fill up a storehouse that is now empty. There is no store and the people wish one as soon as possible. Brother Granger used to trade here and did well until he moved onto a farm.

The post office is kept at the store. Mr. Dickinson has no capital to deal with and must give it up. If you were doing business here I would be very glad for more reasons than one. Please excuse this hasty sheet.

Your friend and brother in Christ,
Albert.

(Rev. Albert Martin, wife Betsey Martin, a cousin of his sister, Clora. PMB)

1368 Hornellsville
Dec 13 1858?

Mrs. Lois M. Stevens
Colesville, Broome Co., N.Y.

Dear Lois,

I recieved your line enclosed in cousin Phebe's letter. I left the Wiley note with Betsey and have written to Betsey to send it to you. Mr. Rose has been in A any more than a week and I do not expect him home before Christmas. He did expect to visit Colesville on his return. I hae written cousin Phebe to get some one to take Betsey over to your house on Wednesday and hppe if Mr. Rose comew to your house before that time that you will tell him to wait till Wedbesday for Betsey.

I have visited Elihu Ormsby's folks. Mrs Ormsby has very feeble health and probably never will enjoy good health again They live in Howard about ten miles from here. Aden, Edward and Robert are quite large boys. Mrs. Ormsby was so glad to see me that she wept like a child. Elihu I guess is a lazy and easy as ever. He had a great many questions to ask about Lois. If I do not forget he used to take quite a shine to her. How was that?

Mrs. Whitford, one of the best women I have formed an acquaintance with since I came here. is now visiting at Mr. Bakers that lives wher MR. Edson used to in Pirate town. Mrs. Baker is her sister. How does Irene get along? Why dont she write? The girls are as slow to write as you are and I have only heard from them onnce since they went to Hamilton. Eunice Crop (CroF) boards with me and goes to school. I really need Betsey Weeks help and am glad Phebe has concluded to let her come. I have a thousand cares, have just got some new dresses made. Mr. Rose got me a new Marino in New York and a new black Silk and delaine in Bainghamton. I have bought two or three here so that I am quite well off for dresses again. I sent twenty dollars to New York and got a double Borcha Shawl. Am I extravagant.

In haste and love
Zada.

Delavan, Illinois
December 31, 1858

Mrs. Mary Ann Martin Blakeslee

Dear Sister,

We are all in usual health. Myra and Flora are out to meet the choir and to call on a sick woman who is wasting away with cancer of the breast. It has rained for 6 weeks so our roads are unpassable. There is great distress for a want of a little money among our farmers. I have seen tighter times than I ever saw before but I am a little relieved now.

Our friends surprised us on Tuesday evening, although a dark and rainy time, by pouring themselves into our little home with arms full of groceries. Bundles of dry goods. Baskets of provisions. Turkeys and fouls with bags of grain. And bringing money also in their hands. So after all were gone we gathered about $70 worth of which $21 were good cash. We needed all these things and more. Yet I would rather they had given them to Brother Pratt. I have had two marriages this week, one at my house with $5.00 and one 8 miles in the country and $4.00. The latter was last evening and it took me four hours toiling through mud and storm to reach the place. It was impossible for anyone to get home, so the whole crowd stayed till morning, sitting up all night. This morning the mud was frozen but not hard enough to bear my horse. Yet by dint of riding, walking, urging, coaxing, Billy and I came home together, arriving at 1 o'clock this afternoon. I am sleepy and tired. But could not let the old year go out without writing to you. You are much in my thoughts and we often talk of you and your little ones. We join in wishing you a happy new year. With the Lord on our side we shall all be safe. Pray for us, write often. George goes to school. The girls help mother. Bruce a rowdy. Palmer studius. Affectionately Sanford (Rev.S.S. Martin

1859

The Sugar Camp

The sugar camp belonged to a neighbor who had 150 maple trees. They found the man and one of his sons collecting and boiling the sap. The kettles were suspended by chains and hooks attached to a stout pole suspended between two crotched posts. There was a lively fire under the kettles fed by seasoned split wood. During the boiling process it was necessary to have someone on the ground day and night, and so they eat and sleep in the camp, and there is no rest until the work is done. A crude shed is erected opposite the fire to shelter the men. The floor is thickly carpeted with straw and here the men sometimes took a nap when weary. It is necessary to blow the candy or wax to ascertain how far the boiling has advanced.

1. To the Supreme Court of the State of New York

The petition of Betsey Martin of the town of Colesville in the ounty of Broome respectfully represents that she intends to apply to the honorable Court for the division and partition of certain premises situated in the said Town of Colesville and being the two farms in the said town which were held and owned at the time of his decease by the father of your petitioner, Samuel Martin deceased and late of that town, that said farms are now owned by the heirs at law of the deceased, excepting Frederick W. Matin who had conveyed his interest in to others of said heirs at law. that Irene Tyrrell wife of Leray Tyrrell of Colesville aforesaid, Clora A Martin and Charles Martin of Colesville three of said heirs at law and should be parties to the proceedings for such petition; that the said Charles Martin is an infant of the age of 6 years and your petitioner is his general guardian and John M. Stevens of Colesville is the general guardian of the infants Irene and Clora.

Your petioner therefore prays that the Honorable Court may appoint a suitable and disinterested person or persons to be the guardian or guardians of the said minors for the special pur ose of taking charge of the interest of the said minors in relation to the proceedings for the partitioners of the premises here-in,=after specified.

Dated, Colesville, Septemder 29, 1857.

Betsey Martin by
Hatchkiss Seymour, Atty.

Broome County S.S.

Betsey Martin, the petitioner named in the foregoing petition being duly sworn in says; that said petition is true.

Sworn to before me
September 29, 1857
J(?) B. Frasier, Justice of the Peace

To Irene Tyrrell
and Clora A. Martin or
John M. Stevens their gardian

Please take notice that I intend to apply to the Supreme Court of the State of New York at a special term thereof to be held in the ourt House in Binghamton in the County of Broome on the 15th day of October at the opening of the Court on that day or as soon thereafter as can be heard for the order of said Court appointing a suitable and disinterested person or persons to be gardians for you and Charles Martin as minors who should

be made parties to the proceedings on an application to be made to said Court for partition of the realestate in Broome ounty of Samuel Martin deceased and said order will be asked for on the papers with copies which you are herewith served.

Dated Colesville September 29th, 1857

Hatchkis and Seymour, Attys.

Betsey Martin by
Hotchkiss and Seymour
her attorney.

Broome County S.S.

Lewis Seymour, one of the attorneys above named beduly sworn says, that said attorneys were retained on or about the 26th day of September 1857 to commence said proceedings in partition, that said petitioner and and infants live about 15 miles from said atternieys and deponent hgs been unable to prepare papers for the motion to appoint gardians for said minors so that said motion can be mase earlier than the 15th day of October instant.

Sworn to before me
3rd of October 1857
B. Marvin, Dept. Clerk.

L. Seymour

Jan 1, 1859

J. D. Bancroft, Cash account

1856	May 17	Due W.O. Bancroft on note	234.50	
	Aug 17		234.50	
	Nov 17		234.50	
	Nov 4	borrowed of J.D.B.	8.00	
1857	Jan 2o	" "	150.00	
1858	Mar 5	returned to J.D.B.		100.00
	Apr 6	borrowed of "	500.00	
	" 6	" " for gilbert	48.65	
	" 15	retunred to J.D.B		100.00
	May 6	" "		300.00
	Jul 31	" "		150.00
1859	Jan 1	" "		55.95

Hornellsville
Friday
January 14, 1859

Miss Clora A. Martin
Harpursville, Broome Co.

Dear Sister,

I do not know as it is best to be particular (as we village folks say about making calls) and always wait till we receive a reply before we venture to write again. And hence I have concluded again to take my pen to write to you. I will not give you a lengthy scolding for not writing but will only say I have been waiting for a long time in vain. And should you favor us with such a token of remembrance we should be greatly pleased. And I trust not long in replying. Mr. Rose is absent this evening and the children hardly know how to keep still enough to let me write. You would be very much amused if you could take a peek into our little domicile and see our little group. The stand being out to the room, I have seated myself by the large dining table in the sitting room. Jennie is trying her best to quiet Martin who is determined to be up on the table and Frank is assisting her in trying to get him still by getting a pillow and laying on the carpet and trying to coax him to lie down with him while Ma writes to Aunt Clora. Jennie's exertion and Frank's pleadings were in vain and I have had to lay aside my pen. And now as both are nicely asleep I can tell you a little how we are getting on in this changing and busy life. Mr. Rose closed his labors with this church as its pastor last Sabbath in December. He presented no resignation. But a committee had informed him three months previous that the church could not pledge him his salary more than the end of the year and a new ministerial committee had been appointed and after the last Sabbath was passed no move was made to extend the call for another year. And an invitation has been sent to Brother

Ford of Alfred University to come and supply the desk. Whether Prof. Ford will comply I cannot tell. He has agreed to preach here next Sabbath. He is expected in town tomorrow to visit among the families of the church. He is a noble man. A model man almost. Too good to come to Hornellsville. But I trust he will be led aright. The community outside of the church and most of the church feel highly incensed at the way things have been managed and the treatment Mr. Rose has received. Knowing that the Sheldon family were at the bottom of it all. Wonderful reconciliation did Elder Washburn effect in coming down and crying peace! peace! when there was no peace. Well I was about to tell you about the state of the feeling in the society here. They felt indignant and the choir says it will not sing if Mr. Rose is not invited to preach. Our organist says she will not play. And those outside of the church gave a donation last night amounting to $125.00, eighty of which was in money. The church is indebted to Mr. Rose $280.00 and as soon as they found out we were going to have a donation so soon we began to hear whispers how nice it would be and that it would doubtless cover so much of the rearage and that it would pay Mr. Rose off so they could get rid of him. The fact is the donation was got up by the most influential society men in the place, by the elite fashionable, the big men as we call them. Men who do not usually give much to dominies but who appreciate what Mr. Rose has done for the place in building our meeting house and who also have admired his energy and perseverance in carrying it through and they feel that he has been abused. They would not give one cent to the church. And I guess those little mosquito souled ones who had wished it applied on salary will learn afterwhile they cannot rule the roost in every particular. We do not know yet what we shall do. Mr. Rose is engaged at preaching in schoolhouses in different places and averages about five sermons a week.

And has for the last two or three months so you see he is not idle. I think his health is better than it has been before since I have known him. Mr. Russel our artist who was present at the donation last evening has offered to paint his portrait for him at the donation.

Jennie has been sick this week, unable to go to school. We have all been about sick with colds, except Mr. Rose. My poor face grows longer and thinner every day. I am getting so I look like Mrs. Bump very much. For the last week I have had a hemorrhage of the bowels every day. And I have not weaned my babe. How does Irene get along and all my dear sisters? Do write.

As ever,

Zada.

Please write, do write, why don't you write?

January 22, 1859

Dear Clora,

Again I take my pen to add a few lines. Should have been sent a week ago. Mr. Rose has gone to spend the Sabbath with the Barrington Church in Wayne, Stubben Co. about 36 miles away. He received an invitation to visit them with the view of settlement. One of the Olneys has been their pastor for twelve years. It is a strong church of 223 members and a country church. But perhaps not the place for us. I am trying to be patient and wait. Hoping there will be a field of labor pointed out to us ere long. Mr. Rose is sometimes almost tempted to enter secular business. The experience of the last ten months has been of that kind which would naturally destroy our confidence in pretentiousness and lead us to trust none till tried. And we have learned who our true friends are and they are not few. Baptist churches however, taken as a whole, are too careless about paying up their ministers, and seem to feel that a tailor's bill or account at the grocery should be settled first. And I do believe that many feel that what is

paid to a minister is a gratuity. A gift. And that they do not realize that it is a debt of honor and one which should be promptly paid. But kindness is what I look at. Although it will not feed or clothe or provide fuel, still I could be happy almost without these could I receive a friendlylike and a kind word. And surely I should be unhappy if I were provided with all temporal comforts without these. Brother Ford was here last Sabbath and had a congregation of 35. The choir went into the orchestra, that is a part of them. There were but two male voices, and they said they went out of respect for me. For I went and sang as usual and the rest came to assist me. We have to be very cautious. I know we are watched. I suspect we will be accused of making mischief if we even winked. But I do hope we will be somewhere else before long. My health is very poor. I have an almost constant hemorrhage of the bowel.

As ever,
Zada Arminda (Martin) Rose.

Hamilton
January 29, 1857

Mrs. Lois Stevens
Colesville, N. Y.

Dear Sister,

We are all well except I have a headache. Was not able to go to recitation and so venture to write to you during study hours. We received your letter and were made glad and sad by its contents. Glad that Levi has finally threshed the oats but sorry he did not feel disposed to deal fairly and very sad that he still retains the disposition to kill his neighbor's dogs. And so old "Dromo" has at last met her death at the hand of an assassin. I am glad I was not there to witness the death scene. You ought to have seen us when we read the news. It caused some fun for Albert and Harriet as they could not sympathize with us, having never felt any particular affection for her. But enough of this.

Irene must not be imprudent. I am glad she is so smart but expect to hear a different story soon unless you make her mind. Tell her as Prof. Buell tells his scholars "that their judgments must yield to the judgments of their superiors."

We sympathize with Frederick in his affliction and hope he will be careful not to get cold in his fingers. There was a lady buried here last Sabbath who died very suddenly. She knocked her hand on a door, taking off a small piece of skin, and her hand and arm mortified in a week causing her death.

Elvira and Mary wrote us that the Lord was working among them. And today Harriet received a letter from Mrs. Marshall telling us that Florence had been adopted into the fold of Christ. I thought of Reuben. He is not too young to give his heart to God. I should rejoice to hear he had

done so. There are several who will be baptized here next Sabbath. It gives me joy that sinners are yielding to the Lord anywhere but especially in Colesville. How I have and do still desire the prosperity of that church.

I have not heard from Sanford since I was at home. Suppose he is not there or you would have written.

I do not understand what you mean by saying you have not received the ten dollars from Leander. I have no remembrance of any indebtedness.

You have done well with the buffalo robe. I feel condemned sometimes when I think what a load of care I left for you. But do not let it wear upon you. I am afraid I shall never repay you. Charley is studying mental arithmetic. He has been writing some to Zada. I shall give him a chance to write to you when he comes home from school.

Betsey

Dear Aunt Lois,

I am well. I wish I could see Reuben and Aunt Irene's baby.

Charley

(He is amusing himself by printing on a slate and copying from books.)

(Albert and Harriet (Hattie) are brother and sister, cousins and classmates of Clora. He later married Betsey Martin, Clora's sister. PMB)

Saint Paul, Minnesota
February 8, 1859

Dear Brother Bancroft,

Through the pleadings of Lucy I undertake to fill out one page of this sheet. I am almost too busy to remember my friends as week after week passes nearly unobserved. I preached three times each to the same congregation. Besides all the extra labors that press upon my hands continually. We are getting along very well in the church, congregations are good and occasionally a conversion. We have just paid off a debt of $1500, and are now repairing our house of worship. We hope to build a large and elegant edifice in a year or two. We have some active and devoted members and find ourselves at home among them. The financial pressure is felt very much in the West this winter. Many are destitute of money and some from the comforts of life. But on the whole people are getting through very well. We expect a reviving in business in the spring. The state of religion is not altogether good, in many places revivals are being enjoyed. May the good spirit of the Lord bless all the churches of the land with an abundance of increase. Please remember me to your parents and Katie. And reserve a large share for yourself. Lucy will fill this out.

Every yours truly,
J. D. Pope

February 8, 1859

My dear Brother,

I have been rereading this morning your kind letter written many weeks since. If your thoughts have occasionally reverted to us in our western home it would not be strange if you had concluded we had forgotten you entirely. Indeed my good husband has seemed to intimate something of the kind in his part of this letter. Now for myself I am not ready to make any such admission. Nor does he mean this. For we who

know him best know he does not easily forget his friends. But he is constantly employed and almost wholly absorbed in his work. My duties are such as to occupy my time nearly as much but not so constantly my mind. So I have much time to think of friends when I cannot write to them. New friends are good but not the same as the old and tried friends. The friends who know your failings and have forgiven them a long time ago. The friends we have no fear will misinterpret our motives. I love the old friends best, but I think we are remarkably favored with a kind and noble hearted people. They are almost too kind to us. And really I should not care to wish that my path might always be so smooth and sunny as it has been for the past season. I am afraid it would not be for my good. I have received much good from the hand of the Lord. Would I might remember this should my cup hereafter be a mingled one. But I am afraid for my hard unchastened heart.

O! How swiftly time is passing and soon will arrive the anniversary of that afflictive event which so suddenly shattered your hopes and bowed you so low. The past year was for you one of sorrow. My prayer for you is that the present year be one of God's rich mercy and blessing to you. May you be enabled to see his directing hand and to hear his voice in the events of this year. In the trivial events as well as thoughts which seem of more account. Have you yet decided what course you will take in business? I am not going to urge you to come here or them to come because I do not know whether it would be for your or their good. However if you never expect to come to live it would be no loss of time or money to make a tour of a few weeks. Strangers are often benefited in health by a few weeks' sojourn in Minnesota. And the view of the bluffs on the Mississippi and a visit to St. Anthony and Minnehaha will pay you for the journey. Then you need not stop at

the "Fuller House" as strangers do for we will make you most welcome while you stay. But if you come I hope you will wait till the last of May or the first of June. The scenery is so much finer then and I think St. Paul itself (never handsome) is not a very fine looking town in the winter. The climate I like more and more. It is very healthy for almost everyone. It does not seem to be very good for small children, there are many deaths of children under two years of age. If persons have consumption seated I think they would not be benefited. But those inclining to it, if not really diseased, are benefited. The weather has been very mild here this winter. Most of the time good wagoning and no sleighing. The river has been frozen so hard that loaded teams go on it for 30 miles without leaving it. I never saw so many rays of sunshine in the winter as we have here. Almost as many as in summer yet the roads seldom thaw at all.

We have enjoyed uninterrupted health and are living comfortably and happily in our own hired house.

How does the church prosper there? Mrs. Marshall does not write to me and mother does not know about that. My best regards to your kind parents and love to Katie, tell her my poor epistle could to bear any criticism from her sharp eyes. I sent you a manual, Mr. Pope's annual sermon which will show the progress in our church. Write soon. With best wishes for your health and prosperity,

Yours truly,
Mrs. L. M. Pope
(Lucy Martin Pope)

Roseboom
February 12, 1859

Mr. William O. Bancroft
Harpursville, N. Y.

Dear Brother and Sister,

Albert has gone to South Valley to covenant meeting. My work for Saturday is done and I thought I would tell you what I was doing. Soon as convenient I went to washing, but not very early. My eyes troubled me some. Elder Powers and wife visited us in the evening. Elder Spafford (father) was here to dinner and made us a good visit. Wednesday we were invited to spend the afternoon at Mr. Wilson's to visit with friends from the Seward church. In the evening Albert was going to his study and I was going calling when several visitors prevented. Thursday was female prayer meeting, a good one, 10 present. Three young ladies who manifested much feeling, also a good meeting in the evening. Friday we declined an invitation to dinner at Deacon Gordon's with brothers Granger and Antisdel and wives on account of visiting on the Hill. Were about to start when old L. Andrew came to spend the afternoon. Saturday brought its usual work. Wished to write but was too tired. Obliged to retire at 8 o'clock. Albert had a young lady call on him after that, but I did not rise. Sabbath went to meeting three times and felt rested. Monday washed, made fried cakes, bread and pumpkin pies and other arrangements for our general meeting. Elder Powers and Bourne came to tea. Elder Powers preaching this evening. I did not go. Prepared potatoes, cabbage and rice pudding to cook the next day, and baked a larger piece of beef that Sis. Coats brought us for this occasion. The ministers stayed with us and much I prized their company. I was glad when at midnight they retired and I could lay myself away for a short night.

Tuesday a.m. Alexander Dekum came to stay with us through the meeting, as we were near the meeting house. His

mother is so careful of him and he really requires a good deal of nursing, that with our other company I was a little perplexed with care, but he enjoyed it so well I am glad he came. He is now at the doctor's and we expect him here tonight to stay several days. We had nine to dinner, eight to supper. Elder Powers went home so we got along very well. I went to meeting three times Wednesday, got three warm meals, only six to dinner and Elder Smith to tea, who preached in the evenings and stayed overnight with us. I went three times that day and felt well. There was so much interest it was thought best to continue the meeting for two more days. There will be none tonight and whether next week I cannot tell. Do pray the Lord may work among us to lead many to repentance. My health is excellent. You ought to have seen me stir around to get a dinner in an hour's intermission with a room full and then leaving my table to hurry off to meeting. Albert's mind is so much exercised for the people and so much preaching that he hardly knows whether he is well or not, but if I may judge from his appetite he is not well. If the meeting continues he must have aid, for he feels so deeply he will soon wear out. Write soon.

As ever,

Betsey (Martin)

(Wife of Rev. Albert Martin, a cousin. PMB)

P.S. We have received two letters from Zada each continuing one and a half sheets of large paper filled. We have sent three to her and are looking for them to arrive Saturday at least to preach for us. Charley is out distributing handbills for a lecturer. He is going to exhibit various things under the microscope. We have a free ticket. Write soon.

Let Irene and Lois know you have heard from us, and visit as often as you can. I suppose you will see the rest often at Harpursville. Deacon Gordon brought us for the meeting six quarts of new milk, one and half dozen eggs,

five pounds smoked ham, two of butter and two of cheese, some buscuits and a loaf of frosted cake and three pies. Pretty good. Sister Coats walked a mile with her beef which weighed ten pounds, a beautiful piece.

Good bye.

(A busy preacher's wife. Is Albert beginning to develop the symptoms which led to a diagnosis of "noncompis mentis?" PMB)

(Public demonstration of the Solar Microscope, a very important and popular precursor of the infectious theory of disease. There were no microscopes and no asepsis or antisepsis or infectious theory taught in the College of Physicians and Surgeons when J. D. B. was a student in 1829. After he retired at age of 70 years, he bought such a microscope and for the first time saw microorganisms. PMB)

Miss Clora Martin
Harpursville, N.Y.

March 7, 1859

Much loved Clora,

It is once mose vacation and weareid with the toils of school , gladly have I laid the duties aside. I have been very busy this term. I have written an essay for our public meeting which was read one week ago. I felt I ould do nothing until my essay was done. Perhaps you can sympthize with me as you have had a public duty to perform.. The Eurodephia did herself honor with the exception of one. I will send you the criticism and you can judge from that. I would like to know how you are getting along these days and how enjoying yourself. With me time flies very swiftly. I have hardly anything to trouble me. The great question b tween myself and you know who is decided for ever. I seldom see him now. Mr Allen calls as usual which has caused some talk but there is no truth in what they say. Friday eveningwe went to see Miss Hopkins and had a fine time. I have said I have nothing to trouble me, but I have. William started for the west this morning so that now I shall be very lonely. If he like it he will remaij some time, if not he will reeturn in a few weeks.

Mrs. Wickwire was buried New Y ears Day. So we are abliged to move the first of AprilWe are going into Miss Bigsby's house oposite the Seminary.

Kemprez has been here a few days this winter, he called on us in Harpursville when he was there. He seems quite sobered now. Has been ordained. I was invited tomhis house to tea, he was very friendly indeed. He said he had baptized every month since his ordination and that he can hardly be spared to visit his friends one week. Our senior class numbers ten,the Junior class is very small. I think you had better come back even now, I cannot tell you how much I miss you. When in trouble I say to my self, how I wish Clira was here, but I find it does no good. I believe you said you were coming home next August, you must remember it and I hope you will come prepared to stay longer than you did last tiie. Write soon. Give my love to Betsey and her husband.

Your loving

Hannah.

#55

Roseboom
March 22, 1859

Dear Sister,

I am glad you continue to copy your journal, I cannot return the favor this time. Your letter was recieved the morning Mr. Rose left us. Elder Smith was here for two days. Now Albert is alone. (I came near saying laboring alone) There is some interest here among the unconverted. They still come forward at every oportunity nut the going is hard and the bretheren are about to give up the struggle. You know it is not so easy to follow one who has labored acceptably in a revival. And we some times think we could do better elsewhere, All with one consent say stay. Some insistant men say they will double their subsciption next year and more than that rather than to have us leave. We shall probably stay and hate to leave, but are tired of Methodist courtesy and gossip. The fruit of the meetings, have twelve hopefully converted. Old hopes revived who have never come out before. Some are yet seeking but see no light. We beliege the blessing of God is not confined to a protracted meeting, or any particular season of the year and we mean to labor and pray on. May this be a precious year with an ingathering of souls. Many are surprised for there has been so little excitement and no special urging. Those who have come out have seemed to act deliberatley and intelligently. Mr. Rose will, I fear, think hard of our field of labor. There was some gossip about him while he was here, some things he tried to correct and more since he left. But we do not notice it. We had excaped so long I felt quite secure but this week some are busy. Last Sabbath by the wish of many Albert spoke of a change of sitting families, sitting together, which was very generally approved, but, forthwith, the Methodists say he wants to shut them out. After the conference there minister will not be allowed to come in at all. Some of their best members were among the first to request a change. We are expecting some to relate their experience next Saturday. Some of our best members are getting troubled about their baptism and now is a time of action for them. The Lord is on the side of his people and I have full faith that truth will triumph. Albert is away today on the Hill. I was dissapointed n not to go with him to eat warm sugar, and altho I thought I could work it off and had got all things ready to commence ironing, I felt more like writing to you. I have been comparing with a year ago. Then I had begun to feel the retunn of health, how anxiously I wished to be well so I could walk and take the healing air. As I arose early this morning and went about my usual work, feeling perfectly well, how my heart swelled with gratitude. Yes Clora I am well and not a cripple. Charley has been talking about it this morning, how he got brown bread for me to eat in the morning, etc. etc. He is really society for me. I have been giving him lessons in reading and writing numbers. Now he is sawing wood.

Albert's gold pen is spoiled and I have an old steel one. In haste, Betsey

PS Charley has been much interested in the meeting. He prays with greay ernestness for a new heart to "make him love God and do right". He is very anxious to see his new cousin. Wishes Irene would let us have him so hecould take care of her. Your letters do us so much good. Write often and tell the rest to do likewise. Our folks are all awake about side walks. We are to have a plank on each side of the road and three at the crossings. Grand enterprise.

To Clora and Wm. Oscar Bancroft from her sister Betsey Martin
who married a cousin Rev Albert Martin

#1801 March 26, 1859 358

Articles of agreement made the 26 day of March, 1859 between Franklin Edgerton, of the one part and William O. Bancroft of the other part both of Colesville, County of Broome, state of New York.

The said Franklin Edgerton and William Bancroft have agreed to become partners together in the art or trade of merchants, and do hereby promise to be governed by the folowing articles;

First, The said business shall be carried on in the name of Edgerton add Bancroft.

second, Each of said parties shall furnish as capital the sum of $2,000.00 inmmanner following,

The said Edgerton will furnish goods and fixtures now in the store to the value of $2,000.00 and the said Bancroft shall furnish $2,000.00 cash.

Third, Each of the said parties shall give his personal attemtion and devote his time during reasonable hour to the busness whollyh to the interests of the firm and shall use his best skill, judgement and descretion to promoting the profits of the business: and during the continuance of this agreement, niether of the said parties shall engage in any speculation on his own separate account, or to be in any way interested in any other business than that of the co= partnership hereby established.

Fourth,The accounts of said parties shall be kept in regular books, by single entry, so long as either party shall desire it, and every transaction shall be duly enter= ed and the said book shall be at all times open to the in= spection and free use of either party.

Fifth, Neither of the said parties shall assume an pecuniary liabilities either in his own name or in the name of the firm, for the accomodation of any other person without the written consent of the other party.

Sixth, All purchases of good exceeding the value of $4,000.00 shall be subject to consultation and mutual agree= m nt of the parties.

Seventh, Niether party shall withdraw from the business of the firm more than his share of the prfits which may have acrued to the firm.

Eighth, An account of the jpint stvok and and the joint liabilities shall be taken at any time when either of the parties, in writing, shall request it.

Ninth, If either party shall intentionally violate, either of the articles of this agreement the other party may immediately gice public notice of the dissolution of t tge partnership, but otherwise it shall continue two years frok this date

Tenth, The division of the profits and lasses in the business shall be equally devided.

Eleventh, In case of any disagreement between the parties here unto at the close of said partnetship, all matters of difference shall be submitted to arbitrators mutually chosen and their decision of all controversies related to the partnership shall be final.

Seal Signatures.

#1754

Delavan, Ill.
March 28, 1859

Dear Brother and Sister,

Yours of the 3rd Inst came duly to hand making our hearts glad with its warm words of love and cheer.

We are all in usual health, it is saturday and Myra being in school George is helping me draw straw. You have my sincere and hearty congratualtions on your new relatbonship may the smiles of our Heavenly father rest upon the union (the marriage of Wm. Oscar Banccoft and Clora Amanda Martin). I am almost wholly unacquainted with you, except as little children but from my remembrance of your characters as developed in early childhood I jusdge you tombe exactly suited for each other. in that solemn ceremony by which your mutual choice wa s legally satisfied. March 29, I have just returned from Green Valley, one of my old out stations where Bro. Pratt keeps up an appointment. Went down on Sabbath afternoon to hear Bro, Pratt, stayed over night, was weather bound by 16 hours of continuous rain.

Six members living in Green Valley were received by letter at the close of the seemon. They have now nearly half the churchmin that neighborhood. Next Sabbath is the day of our anual meeting of the Sunday School. Our average attendance for the last year has been a little over 55, and I have been present at every session with a perfect lesson. These latter are each to receive a bible at my expense. I love the Sunday School as well as ever and mean to try to work on it with faith and patients while I live.

I can see no prospect of a settlement as pastor in these parts If there could be an opening in your vicinity so that I could preach and also look after my temperal affairs some what it would seem providential. I have a large family and am not rich in this worlds goods so that we are obliged to practice the most rigid economy and also to seek a field og labor in which I can secure some Carnal things while I endeavor to sew wome seeds of the Kingdom.

We have an early spring, the farmers have nearly all their oats and spring wheat in the gound and gattle can get a good bite of grass. Yet I expect frosty nights for some time to come and an occasional flurry of snow. Our peaches are killed by cold in midwinter. All our fruits have so many enemies in the shape of insects and tree borers that it seems almost impossible to get on with their raising. Last year I had very fine, raspberries, straw berries, gooseberries and currants.

We all join in love to all,

Sanford (Samuel Sanford Martin)

to Wm. Demarest Banccoft and Clora(Martin)Banccoft recently married.

April 1, 1859.

John D. ZBancroft
to Rachel Hare
Town of Colesville, Broome County, State of N.Y.

For $50.00 Dwellinh house and lot, in the Village of Harpursville.
Bounded by the highway from Harpursville to New Ohio, on west, South by land of Mr. John Harrington, Easterly by land of Edwib Northrop and on North by Bancroft land.

Pawling, N. Y.
April 3, 1859

Mrs. Clora Bancroft
Harpursville

My very dearest wife,

Ten o'clock evening finds me sitting pen in hand, striving to compose my thoughts enough to write a few lines to my own dearly loved wife. I have kept myself so busy that I have shaken off homesickness pretty well until this rainy Sunday. There has been everything to make it pleasant for me here excepting the absence of my better half. And nothing can fill the void left by her absence. I trust dear wife you can realize how much I love you, and how much I miss you, for my power of language is inadequate to express it. Accept many thanks for writing promptly. I did not dare to expect a letter Saturday yet I could not help it. I was so sorry I had not impressed upon your mind the importance to my peace of mind of having a letter started in the Wednesday mail, for I knew if you waited till Friday I would not get it till after Sunday. But it is alright and I wish you could know how much your letter did me, brief as it was. How have you spent this Sabbath day? In the first place I was up very late last night posting books and therefore did not wake early this morning. After breakfast I had got ready for meeting. I read in the Bible and also a short story from the pen of J. L. Arthur, subtitled the "Wife." Then sang a little with Frankie Stark and the melodian. Then a walk of about ¼ of a mile, which did me good, and listened to a sermon from Elder Valentine from these words "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift," after which communion, then by special request from Lydia Pearce, went home with her to tea. Had a pleasant social chat, was introduced to the young lady who wrote the communication signed at Payling in the Chronicle of March 10.

Please look up and read again. Lydia accompanied her to that meeting. Please cut for our scrapbook the verses on the same page entitled "Quotation for Quiet Moments."

In the evening heard Mr. Curtis, Methodist minister, preach from these words, "I have a message from God to thee" after which an interesting Conference meeting was held. Heard a young New Yorker relate his experience. I wish you could have heard it, seen his manners and so forth. After meeting Mr. Greene came in to have me look at some music suitable for a funeral which is to be held Tuesday. There have already been two funerals since I came in town. All very old people. But I must bid you goodnight for I am expecting a hard day's work tomorrow, and the clock has struck eleven.

Monday, April 4. I arose and took a short walk before sunrise this morning, as I feared I should have a headache if I did not. Feel quite well now. The milk wagons commence coming into the depot about 6 in the a.m. and keep coming till 8 a.m. It is quite a busy sight. I enjoy seeing so much going on. I wish you were here to counsel me and help me decide whether it would be best for us to come here. I find the business location and everything connected with it much better than I expected. Mr. Stark has a great many friends. I sold to some customer who used to trade with him when he was in Connecticut a bill of nearly 30 dollars. There is only one drawback to our coming here, aside from leaving our parents. That is selling so many goods on trust. He buys and sells a great many goods going down to the city every two or three weeks. He has a great many long accounts. And I fear some sour ones. There are some good credit customers who like William Pearce paid him $100 at a time, whose bills amount to as much as $600 a year. And another serious objection, he does his business too loosely. Not keeping his accounts or cash

entries so he can tell from day to day whether or not he is going ahead or behind. They sell groceries, nails, calices at a very close profit. None too close. Perhaps if it was already pay, but altogether too close for long trust. Often no pay. Perhaps I might institute some reform but it hard to stem the current when it gets to setting the wrong way. He has an excellent faithful clerk now but whether he can keep him long is doubtful and I should hate to trust everyone as he is trusted. But I must close now for business needs my attention. Please write often. It is needless to say I want to see you very much.

Your own loving husband,
William O. Bancroft.

(William Oscar is here to get some experience. His criticisms of the owner suggest his sound understanding about the value of records, careful attention to profit and the danger of granting easy credit. He seems to have good business principles and judgment. PMB)

Pawling, N. Y.
April 7, 1859

Dear Wife,

I had hoped certainly to receive a letter from you this day, but have been disappointed. My heart was gladdened by a good letter from Katie and a short one from mother yesterday. Was not my wife a little naughty not to write one word to gladden me? But you perceive I am generous and forgiving and shall not lay it to heart this time. Please do not do so again. How I do long to see you, to feel your warm longing heart beating once more in unison with mine, to clasp your dear form in a loving embrace. I hope to enjoy this dear delight sometime next week. Received a letter from Edgerton today and expect to meet him in the city tomorrow, when we shall probably close our bargain. I shall stay and assist him some about purchasing goods. And then home as quickly as possible. My reasons for not remaining here, I will not give till I reach home. I hope I have decided for the best. But perhaps not. There are very many things to make this a desirable place to locate. But all things considered perhaps Colesville is the place where duty calls for the present. I am very much interested in Katie's account of the bird and wish to see them very much.

April 9th. I could not send this letter Thursday, so delayed it so I could tell the time I should reach home. I reached the city about 4 p.m. but did not find Mr. Edgerton till evening. I expect to reach home about Thursday next. Why have I not received a letter from you this week, dear Clora? This makes the third letter to you and no answer yet. I wish you could know how thankful I feel for the rich gift of your love. Remembrance of it cheers my solitude, which would otherwise be very miserable. In

accordance to the tests I have applied, duty seems to call stronger in old Colesville than anywhere at present. And though crossing to my nature, I hope I shall never have reason to regret my decision. For particulars you must wait till I can talk to you. It will be no use for you to forward any letters to me after you receive this, but you can write as many as you choose. My love to Father, Mother, Katie and Ella, reserving all you need for your own self.

Your loving husband,
Oscar.

(I believe he is considering an association with Mr. Edgerton in Harpursville. PMB)

At home
April 7, 1859

My husband,

All the adjectives which are generally used in address seem unmeaning when I address you. Therefore I reject them altogether. You are mine, though so far away. This feeling cheers me. Your letter of the fourth came to hand yesterday. Your first came Monday. If you could have seen me read them perhaps you would have been puzzled to know whether it was joy or grief that was moving my feelings so much. But I can tell you they were more than gladly received and perused. I am glad if you can shake off homesickness and hope you do not have such long nights out there as we do here. The sun is shining brightly this morning although it is quite cold. We seem to be having our March weather now. Night before last I watched at Lewis Humiston's, there babe is the sickest child I ever saw. It has the scarlet fever and the doctor does not talk very encouraging about its ever getting well. You can imagine rest seems sweet tonight. And this morning till quite a late hour I indulged my sleepy propensities. Now I have so many things to write and so little time, you must pardon all want of connection in ideas. Katy has just come in and says the stage has come, one and a fourth o'clock earlier than usual, so this must wait till tomorrow. Perhaps it is just as well for now I will have time to write all I wish. I should have written last night had I not been so sleepy. I suppose you would like to know how I have been busying myself. And perhaps I can tell you in no better way than by copying my journal, commencing March 30th.

I was up early, got breakfast out of the way before 8 a.m. Mrs. Patrick called for us to go up to Mary's about eight and a half o'clock. Mother, Katy and I road up with them. Visited there all day and walked home at night.

Mother and I called at Betsey Chaffee's and engaged a pair of canaries. G. W. Smith came here to spend the night.

The 31st. Ironed in the forenoon, in the afternoon Mother, Katy and I visited at Mr. Humphrey's. We heard that Elder Leach was at home and going to leave in the morning, so father went up to see him in the evening. He was in one of his moody fits and would not say anything encouraging about coming here. Dr. Perry's folks had a little daughter born last night.

April 1. We made our arrangements to all go over on Coles Hill visiting. And father was out harnessing the horses when Mr. Stevens came along on his way to Nineveh and said he would call for me on his way back. So father and mother decided not to go today but tomorrow and then bring me home. We called at Mary's a little while Lois was visiting there. Then went over, called at Irene's then I walked down to stay all night with Hattie. Hattie went up to Mr. S's in the

April 2. Hattie went up to Mr. S's in the a.m. with me. It seemed like the days of old to walk up across the lot with Hattie. Found Uncle James at Mr. Stevens. Our folks came over and brought Mary and her children. We had a very pleasant visit but I did not wish to stay. I would seem more lonesome if possible than to be at home. Called and brought the canaries home. Katy is overjoyed with them. I must have something to care for now that you have left me. Felt O.K., so disaqpointed because we did not hear from you today.

April 3. Attended prayer meeting, had a good meeting.

April 4. Washed and cleaned the pantry. Received a a letter from my dear, dear husband.

April 5. Wrote to Betsey in the a.m. The funeral of Mrs. Lewis Tyrrell was held at our meeting house at one o'clock. Lois called here before meeting. Mr. Hoyt preached.

Leroy and Irene with their children came here and stayed for tea. The baby grows pretty. Went over to L. Humiston's to watch.

April 6. Came home in the a.m. Helped about the house. Elder Merrill called and paid his book account and the interest on the note. Orson Boeman's folks have another son. And now my husband take good care of your health. Stay just as long as you think best, do not feel any anxiety about us. I trust providence will direct your decision.

Your affectionate wife,
Clora.

Friday morning all well.

(Hattie is a cousin of Clora's, a classmate at the female seminary. Hattie and Albert are brother and sister. Albert's wife is Betsey Martin, Clora's sister. PMB)

1772 Wayre 365

April 14, 1859 (51)

Dear Clora,

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How I am longing for for a visit with you as well as well as with the other dear sisters and brothers. Tis but a little while and we were all together in the Martin nest at the dear old home which often re-echoed with our voises as we sung with our parents to the well remembered tunes of coronation, old one hundred, Northfield and Dundee. But those parent voices are tuned to nobler music now, and well do I remember the family "sings" where Frederick presided, and each joined, but now how scattered, and each must sing alone . In fact I have become so unaccustomed to sing at all that it is difficult for me to sing a tune alone. I have been afraid the c children would never learn to sing, I sing to t them so little. Clora, you are acquainted with me, you know I am impulsive and exciteable, that I enjoy a great deal when I am happy and suffer much when I am sad. The past year has been to me a sad one on many accounts and yet it has, I trust imported to me its useful lessons.

Now we are again settled in a new home with a new field of labor and I hope we shall be made useful here . In order to be so we must be cheerfull and I hope to be so. So far as my acquaitance extends I like our people. One house of w worship is situated in a village about like Harpursville., but the members a e mostly farmers resideing on farms. The church of course is scattered and it will take some time to become acqaijted with them all, numbering some 230. We sold our place in Hornellsville so we ave not embarrassed as we expected to be. Tell Marry we shall get along without borrowing.

I am sorry you preferred such gross charges against us as you did in your last for I am greatly mistaken if you do not find it difficult to sustain them. You would I am sure excuse my not writing if you could know how busy I have been for the last three months. Babe has had the m measles, scarlet fever and inflammation of the lungs this spring and now he is delicate and does not walk yet. And I have had a great deal to do to get ready to move and then moving and getting settled is no very desireable task but I will not enlarge. Look on a map of the empire state and up in the north east corner of Steuben right between Crooked and Little lake you will find Wayne which is our place of residence. We ave near the Lakes and occasionally get a taste of fresh fish. Elder Philetuc Olney was the p pawtor that preceded by Mr. Rose and he is at Noise Neads (Weads)

Mr. Rose joins me in love to your husband ad fa hers family and hopes you will come and see us some time. Write again soon, in love,

Zada.

Roseboom
April 25, 1859

To Clora

Dear Sister,

Yours of the 21st received this morning. Nelson was here and will tell you how we are doing. I have only time to write of the subject of your letter. We shall not object to anything the rest of you think best to do. I had hoped the farm would net $7,000.00, I mean pay the expense of guardian, deed and so forth. And then leave that I should get $7500.00. But if you cannot screw it up to that let it slide without and we shall not complain. Albert refuses to say anything about it. Thinks it does not belong to him to say anything. If it is sold I had rather not have any money. If there should be any from the personal property I need it very much now and I have determined not to spend my share of real estate now. Won't Mr. Stevens' folks come to visit us and bring the deed for us to sign? Mr. Francis is boarding with us which adds some to the work for he is quite particular. But I think I am making do something towards a living. They have now $215.00 on subscription and mean to raise $1500.00. They do all they can and we mean to economize and make them support us. Albert has gone after straw to put under the carpets and in the beds. We have been papering and painting and so forth. Very much remains to be done. I never had much idea of filth till I saw the back yard and kitchen here. The whole house is out of repair and I almost get discouraged. I did not wash today on account of a lame back. It is hard work to clean house and yet Albert does it nearly all. I have been obliged to limp for three days. Much better today. Do not wait for me to write but continue your journal. It does me so much good. Tell Lois to come and see us and I will ezplain. Charley is eight years old, I hear him whistling "Pop goes the weasel"

Much love, Betsey (Martin) Martin
cousin marriage;

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Wayne, N. Y.
April 26, 1859

Mrs. C. M. Bancroft
Harpursville

Dear Sister,

We received yours of the 22nd last evening. In reply would say that I should think it would be well to accept Mr. Rolfe's offer for the homestead which I suppose does not include the sawmill farm. It would certainly be better to sell for $7,000.00 than to wait a year or two or five or ten with the hope of getting a little more. Then I say sell at once, that is the homestead for $7,000.00 to Mr. Rolfs. If the sawmill place was included in the proposition I should object for that alone is valued at $1500.00 or $2000.00 is it not? Perhaps if some was a little cut in making a bargain should try him on they might get us little more. But this I leave to the rest who will do all to the best I have no doubt. We are liking our new home better every day. I wonder how we ever lived through the trials we had in Harpursville. The ministerial committee there or one of them have written to M.R. to have his advice in settling another man. The church as a body were very desirous to have us stay and promised to deal with refractory members who have been troublers in Israel there, if Mr. Rose would stay. But we could not think it best and we are now here. Providence has opened to us a pleasant field of labor and then we were enabled to sell our house and lot there without sacrifice. So we could have without embarrassment. That is, without being in debt to any great extent. The church there are back some $250.00 on Mr. Rose's salary yet. And it is doubtful about his ever getting it. I wish you could visit us in our new home. I have no doubt Oscar might have gone into a store here where he could do well. But as he has already made arrangements with Mr. Edgerton. I have wanted a sister nearby. But it can't be.

Much love Zada (Mrs Rose)

Delavan, Illinois
May 24, 1859

Dear Sister Mary,

It is a long time since you wrote me. Lois says you are very lame. Sorry to hear it. Take a little time to write your friends all around and when you come to that part of the list where our name stands go slowly and not skip any. In that way our turn will come at length. I wish you would come out here on a visit. It would do you all good, improving your health. And increase your stock of knowledge by actual observation and might benefit your pocket. Especially should you invest in something here.

George and Lilla are quite unwell this evening from taking cold I believe. Myra and the other girls are out to call on a neighbor whose little girl taken suddenly ill is threatened with brain fever. I have resigned my office as superintendent of Sunday School so am to have more liberty to preach in destitute neighborhoods. I would visit you and stay a year in N.Y. if there was an opening near you. There is a great need that I should realize something soon from my real estate. Please to make me a bid for my share and let me hear from you soon. Kiss Mary and Thomas for Uncle Sanford and be assured that all my family join me in sending love to you and yours. Pray for us. Goodnight.

Sanford Martin.
(Rev. S. S. Martin)

Havana
July 12, 1858

Mrs. Oscar Bancroft
Harpursville

Dear Mrs. Bancroft,

I have received your kind letter in due time. Was glad to hear from you. And you had no need to apologize for the eyes becoming moistened when you called at our house. I have often wished I could meet all the little trials of life with as much fortitude and patience as yourself. I know I did not express any of the sympathy which I felt for you and feel in a greater degree. I trust both of you prefer spiritual blessings to those merely of an earthly nature, yet we naturally shrink from those things which at the present are not joyous but grievous and as for myself, I have often been impatient and unreconciled when not situated according to my mind. At the same time I am conscious that my heavenly father bestowed upon me an abundance of unmerited blessings, and I ought to trust him implicitly. The hardest part of my being reconciled to my sickness this spring was the extra work it made for others. Particularly Alice, but she has been just as willing to do everything as if she was our own daughter. I was afraid she would get over done. But she seems to get along nicely and the children are happy and well. So I content myself imperfectly thinking I may as well enjoy my rest while I have it. I am improving all the time. I can now walk to church which I enjoy very much. But I am not strong enough to do hard work. Frank has been gone to Rochester nearly two weeks. Is very smart, able to go about, and see a good deal. I expect him back next week. Think we shall be home the early part of August but the time is not fixed. I regretted as much as you that we could not visit at your house. But have it in anticipation now and shall I then be able to do justice to the dinner without any study

on your part as to what we can eat. We both have a good appetite and eat every kind of plain food at breakfast or dinner, but very light suppers. Tell Oscar I have received a letter from Mary Lockwood since I have been here. She weighs 175 pounds but I do not suppose her health is very good. You must enjoy having Jennie at home. I hope she can relieve you and save you many steps so that you can have a little more leisure and rest. How is Caty and your mother? I want to see all our friends at home very much. Mr. and Mrs. Palmer have called here and we there. I like her very much. She reminds me of her mother. She thinks of visiting your place this summer. I understand Myron McMaster has broken his pledge for which I am sorry. I suppose he trusted in his own strength instead of looking to the source of all goodness. I would that thk temperance movement might be followed by religious awakening which is our great need. I shall hope to hear from you again. Do not care whether it is written as a diary or any way you choose. There is to be a national temperance camp meeting at North Hector commencing the twenty fifth of the month, which we hope to attend part of the time. Much love for all,

Julia.

At Phoebe's
Confidential
May 27, 1859

Clora A. Bancroft
Harpursville

Dear Clora,

I have been trying ever since I assumed the perpendicular this morning to get time to write but could not till this afternoon. Now my hand trembles so I should defer it till next week. I know you have felt anxious to hear. And have long looked in vain for a letter. We are all in usual health. Phoebe has been making pies and has just laid down to rest. She has kept provisions for as much as 6 weeks for special company (I do not mean the same provisions but has kept baking)and seems just as likely too as much longer as when I came here. I do not mean to be impatient but I do want it over with. She has been so miserable so long. I begin to fear we shall have a pair of twins this time. If it should be so in addition to our present number it would require six like me to do the work. Hattie is crying and I must leave writing.

Esick wished me to tell you, you had better urge the payment of that note against Bump, which he had signed, as he thought you could get it and he feels anxious to get his name off. He has gone today to pay a note in consequence of signing another. And but a few days since has paid one at Post. And will have another to pay soon. I hope he has learned a useful lesson. He has resolved never to sign again without good security. I learned by way of Irene that Albert had been sued for his stock in the railroad. And Betsey called upon for Charley's share. If that is true it will place them in embarrassing circumstances. I have felt very anxious to hear direct from them. But have not since the first week I came here. I suppose Betsey has

a note against old Bump as everybody calls him. But she has been trying to collect for nearly a year. Esick thinks it is not worth much. Said I had better write her to see to it without delay. I wish you would ask Lois whether she would let Calvin have money and take his note if he should come after it. I have forgotten the amount but think not more than 50 dollars. He is suing Albert and thinks he may want it. This note is as good as anyone's. And if Lois and Mary should have any that they wish to let please write me. I wish you could write soon. You will think this a mixed mess, but you would not wonder if you knew how many times I have left. I hardly think I will commence another on Friday.

Yours,
Hattie.

I had not realized that I was writing to a married woman and one who thinks a wife should have no secrets, but I have only to say what I have written you will be good just once and burn it as soon as read. I have written in haste. Excuse blots and blunders.

Sinnamahoning, Pennsylvania
May 27, 1857

William O. Bancroft
Harpursville, N. Y.

Dear Friend,

Yours of April 16 arrived May 1, but with the multitude of duties incumbent upon me I have not answered earlier. I was glad to hear you had come back to Harpursville. Indeed this was the most pleasant item of news. I agree with you in thinking if circumstances favor me to visit mother again we shall be permitted to get a sight of each other. You could not regret more than I did last fall my inability to visit you. I think of coming out in June, when I hope to see you, and spend a week with you. Health, that best of blessings, which gives tone to all the enjoyments of life and without which life itself is endured rather than enjoyed, is still dispensed to me abundantly by the bountiful author and sustainer of my life. Oh, how grateful and obedient we ought to be to the giver of all good for this unceasing care over us. May we in return devote every energy of soul, body and spirit to the advancement of his glory, which will secure to us the best good for this world and that which is to come. Since the receipt of yours I have heard of the death of John Crawford. One by one our old friends are dropping into the grave. May the grim messenger find us well prepared and ready for his summons when it shall be our turn. I am pleased with your suggestion respecting our correspondence and coincide with you that extracts from our journals occasionally might prove of interest to both of us. As time is very precious to me just now, I shall have to draw my letter abruptly to a close. Hoping e'er long to have a pleasant chat with you and tell you what I have been doing and thinking, I remain your friend.

Most truly yours,
George R. Vosberg

Delavan
June 19, 1959

Dear Sister Mary, (Mrs. Stevens)

We were truly glad to hear directly from you. We have been much afflicted of late by sickness. George was down for two weeks with typhoid pneumonia. During the greater part of which time we had little hope of his recovery. His mental alienation was so entire during a part of the time that he did not recognize his parents. I prescribed and Myra and I nursed him and it pleased God to raise him up at the brink of the grave in answer to my prayer. May the sign prove it is of some merciful purpose to him and to us. When George was convalescent I was brought down with a cold and a cough and finally with the ague. So now, although my chills are broke and I keep up and about I am weak, suffering much from backache, expectorate largely and feel like a used up man. I have not done a day's work in four weeks. Have failed to meet my preaching appointments. And refused to attend one funeral. I conducted a funeral yesterday without preaching and the week before preached at two. Coming home from the last one in a chill. George is well but has not got his strength yet. The rest of the family are in comfortable health. Our pastor Pratt exchanged with pastor Stott of Tremont today. I attended meeting and our new superintendent being sick I took charge of the Sunday School. Zada and Betsey and Clora all owe me letters but they don't write. I wish Elvira could find time to write me. I know her cares must weigh heavily on her as she has a large family. My family all join in love to you and yours. Pray for us. Write often. Farewell,

Your brother,
Sanford.
(Rev. S. S. Martin)

July 5, 1859

Bancroft and Martin

Cash received by Bancroft for firm after March 28, 1859

1859				whole amount	½	inteerest
Mar	31	E. Fergusom	note	$39.65	19.82	5.32
Apr.	1	A.P.Merrill	"	5.65	2.82½	.76
"	6	"	acct	8.35	4.17½	1.11
"	13	M. Crosby	cash	.38	.19	.05
"	20	Sundries	acct	16.87	8.43½	2.23
May	13	Stanley Wassonnote		15.00	7.50	1.94
"	19	H.Balkeslee	acct	1.50	.75	.19
"	20	John Yauger	"	2.63	1.31	.33
"	24	G. Collington	"	26.59	13.29½	3.43
"	30	H.Lemmon	"	1.47	.73½	.18
June	1	Northrop &Co,	mort.	1000.00	500.00	128.33
"	1	Richafds	acct	5.00	2.50	.64
"	3	J.G.Thomson	"	2.00	1.00	.26
"	6	Gus Furman	cash	15.79	7.89½	2.01
"	20	D.L.Leach	acct	41.53	20.76½	5.25
"	25	H.A.Wakeman	note	5.00	2.50	.62
July	4	H.G.Webster	"	2.63	1.31½	.33
"	7	R.S.Harper	"	8.93	4.48½	1.11
"	29	L.Humaston	"	.26	.13	.02
Aug,	9	Robert Harper	acct	7.64	3.82	.92
Sept	12	W. Briszee	"	1.28	.64	.14
Oct,	13	E. Hicks	note	7.28	3.68	.83
"	29	C. Handy	acct	1.75	.87½	.19
Nov.	14	E. Harper	"	62.42	31,21	7.01
1860						
Feb.	13	G.L.Bpanchard	note	10.00	5.00	1.04
Mar.	16	A.P.Merrill	"	70.45	35.22½	
"	17	Barns & Ruggles	acct	8.99	4.49½	7.99
Apr	10	Lewis Tyrrell	Mort.	50.00	25.00	4.98
May	7	" "	"	30.00	15.00	2.87
"	24.	G.B.Barnes	Note	18.00	9.00	1.69
Jun	4	E.M.Dickinson	acct	3.00	1.50	.27
"	9	Stanley Wasson	note	5.00	2.50	.46
Oct	6	L.H.Tyrrell	"	200.00	100.00	16.22
Nov.	21	" "	"	285.00	142.50	21.72
1861						
May	31	J.F.Bishop	acct.	20.00	10.00	1.17
Aug	17	H.P.Birdsall	int.	1.61	.80½	.08
Oct	26	B.Pratt est.	acct.	.67	,33½	.02
Dec.	14	A Webster	"	12.00	6.00	.47
1862						
Jan	1	Charles Pratt	note	2.55	1.27½	.09
"	22	Justis Chaffee	acct	.71	.35½	.02
Feb	22	Betsey "	"	5.00	2.50	.16
Mar	1	Edgerton and B	int	27.09	13.54½	.86
April	1	L. Thomason	note	6.29	3.14½	.18
Oct.	1	Ogden Rockwell	"	4.61	2.30½	.05
Nov.	4	A.Webster	acct	2.03	1.01½	.02
July	5	E.M.Norcutt	"	5.00	2.50	.10
				2,062.97		225.52
					1031.48½	

Roseboom, N. Y.
July 6, 1859

Mrs. Clora A. Bancroft
Harpursville

Dear Friends,

I am alone and just to tempt me from my work, the pen, ink and paper are left downstairs. So I yield to scribble a little for you. Mrs. Leech has told you that we are very well and how we are situated. Since she was here have had our house painted on the outside and some repairing on the inside. Mr. Francis was to leave about the first of July but now says he can't till the middle. Seems determined to so contrive his repairs as to have a gang of men here all summer. Never mind I am enough for him. I do not mean to give up until we are quiet and alone. Albert has gone to the association at Westville by my urgent request. So do not scold. For I think it perfectly safe. Pardon me if this is not exactly orthodox. I forgot I was not talking to Clora instead of writing. The bundle by Mrs. Leech was timely and very acceptable. All but tbe sheet from Lois. I searched every paper to find a word from one of you. Was disappointed. Do not know to whom I am indebted. I have attributed to Lois unless I have been reading wrong on my apron. You would not send away such things. Imprudent say you. It is richly merited. Charley stayed from school today to keep me company. Is now picking currants. He has been whipped two or three times in school for missing a word in spelling. This tries our feelings and I hardly know whether to send him. We have a little Methodist teacher who is making her first trial. There were several applicants for the school but for a time it was doubtful whether they would get any but a Baptist, but they at last succeeded by taking this one, thus pleasing a majority of the trustees

but not of the inhabitants. One must live in Lodi to know the beautiful features of Methodist, so liberal open communion you know. There was a celebration at Cherry Valley the fourth of which I send you the program. Charley was anxious to go. Albert went up with him a while. Charley was satisfied but Albert thought it came out far below the expectations of the people. We have learned that you thought of moving to Nineveh. When and why? Do write often. I have not done my part. But suppose you would hear from me by way of the rest of the family. The thing uppermost in my mind is how I wish you could come to see us. Remain a few days at least. Visit us when you can. How is Mary's lameness? I have been seated here 40 minutes. Perhaps Albert will finish.

Betsey.

July 11. We are all well but busy. Betsey and I have washed today and she has called on one of the sisters nearby.

Albert
(Rev. Albert Martin)

Indenture Sept 1, 1859

Silas L Scott, Chicago

Wm.O.Bancroft, Colesville, Broome Co. N.Y.

$1400.00

Parcel of land in Colesville, It being in the lawful passession of party of the second part in the village of Nineveh

Adjacent to the Bush property and known as the L.L. Scott dwelling

Greece, N. Y.
September 8, 1855

Dear Sister Clora,

We have just returned from Deacon Way's where we spent the night. We called at the office on the way home and found a letter from Elvira. O! How my heart did leap for joy as I read that Pa had been able to ride down to Uncle Hessie's and also to Harpursville to get the horses shod. But when I remember the nature of his disease and how liable to a relapse, I fear for the result. I open every letter with a trembling hand and as long as we have seen our Pa so feeble and as much as I have feared he would soon leave us, I still feel I should be quite unprepared for such an event. How could I bear the intelligence. Elvira told of his remark that "God was able to snatch him from the brink of the grave." Yes God is able. In Him I will trust, still praying and hoping that our last parent will be restored to us that we may share in his counsel and prayers for many years to come. There has been a great deal of sickness here about for the last two months which seems not at all abated. New cases of Cholera are occurring daily and indeed it is increasing all around us. Five deaths occurred last night, only a short distance from us in this town. Deacon Way is very low with dysentery. He was considered dangerous yesterday. He is some better this morning. Be not alarmed about us. I have no fears. The same hand that has led us thus far can protect us for the future. He gives us life and protects us from death. In Him we can safely trust. My health has improved some since I came to Greece. I think I can endure twice as much as when I left home. Mr. Rose is also enjoying good health. We went into our church this morning. They have been newly painting the interior and it is much improved in appearance. We have got our horse. Mr. Rose purchased her for $90, a

bargain too, for a prettier little bay mare never traveled in Greece. We have not our buggy yet. We think we shall do better to wait a while. There are rare chances for buying and we will bid ours. Clora, when will you come to Greece? Mr. Rose says he will bear your expenses at any time, when you wish to come, and will meet you at the depot when you arrive. The school here is about the same as in Colesville. Wages about the same. Chances of getting a select school are poor. If you would give us any encouragement that you would come we will try to get the school in our district for you. The schoolhouse is about a half mile from here. A pretty stone schoolhouse. It is not large, quite a pleasant school to manage. Deacon Gates is trustee. He lives close by. I am as intimate in his family as in my father's. If you would come I think there would be no difficulty to get this school for you if you wish to teach at $3.00 a week and we of course would wish you to board with us and I could carry you in tedious weather driving our little "Kitty." If you did not wish to teach you would be welcome to a home with us as long as you stand it with us and might study as much as you choose.

I never saw such sights of peaches and the market flooded. Mr. Rose said he would walk five miles to carry Pa some of ours.

Give my love to all, goodbye.

Zada

(To date this epidemic, it was before Clora went to Greece, before her father died, before her marriage. PMB)

10 Sept. 1859.

William Demarest Bancrofts description of his mother Clora Amanda (Martin) Bancroft, second wife of Wm. Oscar Bancroft.

My father's first wife was Jane Martin, a cousin of Clora Amanda Martin, who died in child bed with her first child. Jane and Amanda were great friends and about the same age.

Clora Amanda was the eleventh child in a family of twelve of Deacon Samuel Martin. She was born November 12, 1836 and married January 20, 1859 and died Dec 3, 1883. She was 5' 11" and her sisters were all close to or over six feet. Aunt Mary (Martin) Blakeslee was 6'1, mother of Thomas Blakeslee.

, Clora had an asymmetry of the face and shoulders, common in her family and conspicuous in her. A light brunette, brown eyes, pigmentation brown. Prominent forehead. Wide hips, no trouble with labors and had abundant breat milk.

Died in 1885 at the age of 49 yrs, confined to bed a long time and had consumption. Arthritis severe in hands.

Hamilton Female Seminary one year. Taught school very successfully, Painted in oils, copied and some originals. Sang well soprano.

Cinderella among her sisters, she was last married, and meant it when she wrote Oscar,"you are my first love." She was very warm and affectionate, tender and kind. Punished her children occasionally.

She was intensely proud, dressed well, outgoing, socially actiuve

Took her husbands business failures very hard.

His father, William Osxar Bancroft, was the first child of Doctor John Demarest Bancroft, his mother Laura Birdsall. He was 6'1", slight of build, sloping shoulders with some stoop, fairly well muscled and good "build".
A baseball player, good swimmer, good horseman, set an example of courage for his sons, urged sons to mix with town boys, supplied them with guns and horses to make them more aggressive.

He had blue eyes, light color,(Dutch) bald before 21 yrs. Did not have (good fusion) binocular vision, altho vision good in both eyes. Hearing good.

Dad not sure he ever saw him angry.

Died of concumption (doctors diagnosis) at 57yrs, 1887. sick two years.

Humorist, very sociable, great mixer, Repeatedly elected to church, school and public office

Hudson
July 27, 1857

Mrs. J. D. Bancroft
Harpursville, Broome County, N. Y.

My Worthy Friend Mrs. Bancroft,

I trust I shall have your pardon for not writing sooner when I tell you how I have been circumstanced since I last saw you. When I left Binghamton I went to Albany. There I heard my mother was very poorly and not expected to live long. I started then for Illinois. I came on safely as far as Elgin, 40 miles west of Chicago. There I was stopped, the cars could not run in consequence of a bad storm. Was detained three weeks, finally remained until spring. Did not like Illinois, consequently left and came to this place.

I like it here very much. It is situated on the east shore of Lake St. Croix, and directly opposite in Minnesota is the City of Lakeland. I went over and spent a day last week and I can say I never saw such handsome country, it is beautiful. I am sure nature has never formed anything to excell that part of Minnesota. I like that side better than Hudson although it is not half as large. But it is growing very rapidly, as is Hudson also.

We have some privations here, we do not have much fruit, except wild. But we have the best of water and good health. Doctors can't live here by their profession.

I find as good society here as I have found in any place. We have good schools and five different places of worship. There is a settled minister in all but the Baptist. There has been one here for several years and they have concluded to make a change. He left last Sabbath. Now they are in want of another.

You will doubtless wonder how I pass the time away. I have rented a large boarding house. I pay seven dollars rent. You no doubt will think I shall find enough to do to pay my

rent. I pay my girls three dollars a week. I have five for board. My brother Elijah is here with me. He works at his trade. He gets $2.50 a day. I have $1.25 for making vests that I only had $.75 in Binghamton.I think I can get along far better here than I could east. I have not registered coming west yet. My health is much better than when I was in Binghamton, and Elly has never been sick a day since I came west. She never looked as well as she does now. She has grown tall quite fast. She says, "I think if Doctor Bancroft would move here, that Mr. and Mrs. Bancroft and Oscar would laugh and look happy to see Mary Katie and come in loaded down with flowers every day." She says, "Mary Katie would act childish if she could see what quantity of flowers there is here, how she would laugh."

We have sent on and brought our mother here. She has been here three weeks and she has improved very much. She likes it here. She seems as happy as I ever saw her.

Now Mrs. Bancroft, I hope you will not do as I have done, but write soon. There is nothing that would give me more pleasure than to get a communication from you.

My regards to all of your family, let me hear from you. Is Oscar married? Tell him to write me to let me know and what success he has had with the business I left with him. Please remember me to all inquiring friends. Don't forget.

(Author not revealed. May be a Williams who made vests. PMB)

$1875

October 8, 1859

This indenture made the 8th day of October, 1859 between Silas L. Scott and wife of Chicago, Illinois and William Oscar Bancroft of the town of Coleville, Broome County, N.Y.

Witnesseth -- in consideration of $1400 --

that parcel of land in the village of Nineveh -- formerly known as the Wiley H. Scott dwelling of 1½ acres.

Lilas L. Scott

Helen Scott

J. D. Bancroft paid for this.

See loose leaf document file

(This is the Nineveh property)

ChicagoDecember 24, 1859

Birdsall's
Saturday Evening Advertiser

J.A.J.Birdsall Editor and Publisher

Vol 1 Number 7

Published every Saturday
No. 107 Randolph St.,
Chicago Ill.
One copy one year 50 cents
six months 25 cents.

A copy in the Birdsall file.

July 3, 1841

William Oscar Bancroft. llyrs, Harpursville, Church.
Lords day, atended church in forenoon and Baptist meeting
in the afternoon

Valuable Works for the Young 1859
By Rev. Harvey Newcomb
How to be a man
How to be a lady
Anecdotes for boys - illustrative of principles of character
Anecdotes for girls " " "

National Series of american History, Rev. Joseph nBanvard.
Plymouth and the Pilgrims
Novelties of the New World.
Settlement of North Caroline and irginia

Valuable Religious works
The Christian Life, Peter Bayne
School of Christ , A.L.F. Foote
Suffering Savour, Fred W, Krummacker
Wreath around the Cross, Morton Brown
Philosophy of the Plan of Salvation
The Great Teacherm Joh Harris
Immitation of Christ, Thomas Kempis
Lords Prayer, William E. Williams
Religious Progress " "
Glad Tidings, Tweedie
Lamp to the Path "
Seed Time and Harvest Tweedie
Church memebrs quie John James
Church members handbook, William Crowell
Curch in Ernest, John James.
Christian Progress " "
The Bibe and the Closet James
The family Alter
The young Communicant.
Daily Manna , Barron Stow,
Advertised in the Aimwell stories for girls.

The Florence Stories.

1859

Betsey Martin, care of A. Martin

Dear Girls,

Excuse great haste as I hope to go to meeting tonight. I just write to let you know I spent the evening of the 9th with Irene and left her with a smart boy weighing 8½ lbs. She was comfortable yesterday. Phoebe is with her now I expect.

Judge Ruggles lingered until the 4th. Hiram Coller died about a week since. I thought Mary of Uncle Daniel Crofut's family cannot long survive. Jura and Samuel are at Uncle H's to spend the winter. Rumor says Samuel is dismissed. Frank has poor health from a felon and boils.

M. Blakeslee
Sabbath evening 11th

~~ca 1860~~

We the undersigned subscribers of the Church Society of the first Baptist Church of Colesville do hereby agree to pay the several sums set oposite our respective names for the services of a pastor for the coming year to preach on the Sabbath at the Harpursville and Centervillage Churches if we can secure such a Pastor as will be satisfactory to the Church and Society aftter preaching a sermon, if we can secure such a pastor satisfactory to the Church and Society and his services are acceptable to the committee.

G.T.Chadden	$5.00	paid	Harry Martin Jr	15.00	paid
M.J.Whitham	10.00	"	S.D.Champlin Jr.	5.00	"
George Calington	15.00	"	Jamson Austin	2.00	"
C.F.Carl	5.00	"	H.C,Humphrey	5.00	"
G.Austin	3.00	"	John Goodall	5.00	"
Paul Atwill	5.00	"	H.D.Brigham	5.00	"
Josiah Throok	5.00	"	John Adams	3.00	"
Henry Tripp	15.00	"	M.L. Crosby	5.00	"
Mrs. S.H.Marshall	2.00	"	Harry Wilder	10.00	"
James Bartten	2.00	"	C.B.Doolittle	6.00	"
Steven Wason	5.00	"	W. O. Bancroft	10.00	"
Steven Wasan	5.00	"	C. Vanderburgh	1.00	"
Wm. H. Rector	5.00	"	Lewis R. Jones	2.00	"
L/E.Cresson	2.00	"	Charles H. Masson	5.00	"
T. Pierce	5.00	"	Aaron Ferris	5.00	"
H.M.Shutts	12.00	"	G.F.Smith	1.00	"
Morton Dickinson	10.00	"	Roselle Harper	3.00	"
S.A. Coombs	4.00	"	Les. Porter	4.00	"
T.W. Rice	3.00	"	Mrs. W. Reihl	4.00	"
Lewis Humaston	5.00	"	J.E.Bristol	1.00	"
George Pratt	5.00	"	L.G.Wicks	5.00	"
O. Bristol	5.00	"	E.L.Bedient	5.00	"
Harry Martin	50.00	"	S.B.Manguming	3.00	"
William Newell	3.00	"	Daniel Haskins	2.00	"
Sornborger	5.00	"			

The absence of Dr. J.D.Bancroft's name suggests this was after his death in 1872.

1901

Clora A. Bancroft.
Neneveh, Broome Co., N.Y.

Dear Sister,

Hattie says we must write to Clora and I propose to write some first. Baby is sleeping. I have just go clothes changed, hair combed, and am well wapped in a bed quilt and placed (hardly seated, as I do not sit now days) in the rocking chair. You may think I am not very smart as our babe was tweo weeks old yesterday. Well I am not as strong as I might be, have suffered much from sore breasts but they do not blesd so bad and it is not quite so tedius to nurse him now This morning I have a good deal of courage. Yesterday as well as this morning I walked with help out in the sitting room to my chair, but it is not a very pleqsant excersize yet I wish you could see little Freddie Ernest as I call him. But I dare not begin to speak of his good looks and deportment till have more strength. Write soon

Betsey.

Dear Clora,

I have seated my self after tea to write a few lines, little thinking so many days would pass before I could find time. But did not find things quite as favorable as I had anticipated. I had a very fine time getting here. Probably Oscar told you of the verdant youth that met us at Otego and you have felt anxious to know whether he had wit enough to lawt him home. When we got to Oneonta he took the wrong road and drove nearly a mile before I could prevail upon him to turn back. Although I told him at the corner we were wrong and wished him to enquire if he was not satisfied. We would have made a similar mistake before had I not prevented him. I suppose he thought for onee he would have his own way. We came near upsetting in turning around and he dropped the lines once. Both gave me a severe shock and tired me more than the journey. We reached Milford Center at sundown and put up for the night.

Next morning started early and arrived at 11;00 am. Found Betsey pale and weak and very glad to welcome me. The young lady they eng-aged first disappointed them and they succeeeded in getting a lady about 40 who has had so much experience in the business that she thought her services worth $8.00 a week. But finally consented to come t work for $2.00. She left us Monday after doing the washing. Stayed a little more than a week and took up to $3.00. I had a very large ironing as she had ironed only what she was obliged to the previous week. Yesterday made currant jell and made some for drying. Today we have made wine, washed q little , received calls and cared for the baby.

I was abliged to leave writing o take the baby. Has been very troublesome today. Now it is 11;00 pm. the rest are in bed. Albert has the sick headache and Betsey has just called me to cover her warmer as she has chills again

and baby has kept me busy caring for him since it grew dark. And now begins to grunt again. What shall I do. My eyes are put out and you letter unfinished but I must go.

Friday- I had hoped to finish this sheet but Betsey has suffered so with hr breasts. She is not more comfortable and is sleeping,

In haste

Hattie.

Friday- I sealed my letter thir morning and started it to the office but the stage had left so I concludee to keep it till morning thatI might tell you how Betsey is. She has been very miserable today but is more comfortable now. She has three callers just now. Baby us screaming but I mean to let them take care of him fo a little while. When I do it I wqnt more room than when there are so many there I had hardly formed my resolution when I was summoned toexcersize my gift of baby tending. He was soon quiet and the ladies soon took their departure unregretted by all of us. Baby is very regular in his habits. He keeps me awake till eleven and has me up at five, I am trying to take care of him So Albert can rest to prepare for the sabbath. Betsey is better this morning. Has just nursed her babe on both sides. Lived through it and seems quite natural. Is singing Mr. Rose's favorite tune. Your as ever

Habtie

1860

The Democratic Convention held in Charleston, South Carolina, was the strongest party. Had to deal with the divided country. Douglas a northern supporter of Union from Illinois

The Whig party was destroyed by the conflict be tween north and South. The republican party emerged as a sectional party of the north and was antislavery.

The party divided at this convention and the Sourtherners chose Bekenridge, the Republicans chose Lincoln

Secession occured 6 weeks after Lincoln's election,

Robert W. Johannsen
Amer. Hist. Illustrated, Vol viii, pp4 June 73 in my libraary

file under 1860

Lord Palmerstan's administration extended from 1859 to 1860 so covered the period of the Revolution. The following letter is an interesting revelation of the attitude of the British Government at this time.

26 James Street,
May 30, 1889

Desr Sir,

Having expressed my interest in the portions of your work which I read in the day of its arrival, I think that it would be less than ingenious if I did not, after reading what relates to the capi et of Lord Palme rstan, on page 56 and in the following chapter, make some reference to it.

Allow me to assure you that, so far as the cabinet is concerned you have been entirely misled in regard to matters of fact. As a member of it, and now nearly itw sole surviving member, I can state that it never at any time dealt with the subject of recotnizing the southern states in your great civil war, excepting when it learned that proposition of Emporer Napoleon the Third, and declined to entertain that proposition without qualification, delay or dissent.

In the debate that took pla ce on Mr. Roebuck's proposal for the negotiation, Lord Russel took no part, and could take noje, as he was a member of the House of Lords. I spoke for the Cabinat.

I will, I am sure, be glad to learn that there was no foundation for a charge which, had it been true, might have aided in keeping alive angry sentiments happily gone by. You are, of course, at liberty to publish this letter.

I remain your faithful servatn
W.E,Gladstone

Henry Clews Esq.
taken from the North American Review of Reviews, June 1904
by (W.D.B.)

January 1, 1860

A statement showing the endebtedness of the First Baptist Church Society in Colesville to --

J.D.Bancroft and others for rent of Parsonage	$100.00
I. E. Welton " " "	10.00
G.M, Tyrrell " " "	4.00
Lewis Humastin balance due for taking care of house	5.00
Henry Lovejoy for plank for stepps	1.50
Bancroft and Martin on acct.	14.50
Interest due Bancroft & Martin	1.50

Pledges					
12	Harry Martin	paid 12.00	1.00	Leroy A. Tyrrell	1.00
8	" " Jr	8.00	2.	Washington Pearsall	
10	Daniel "	10.00			2.00
6	F.W.Martin	6.oo	2.00	Will. Pearsall	2.00
6	I. W. Stevens	6.00	6.00	H.A.Wakeman	2,00
4	M.O.Marsh	4,00	2.00	Stanley Wassan	
2	E.W.Crofut	2.00	8.00	John D. Bancroft	10.00
1	Charles Crofut		6.00	W.O.Bancroft	6.oo
1	Gardner Kettel	1.00	2.00	Segeris Humaston	
8.	Sylvester Wilcox	1.00	1.00	Lyman Eldred	
5	Lewis Robinson		2.00	J.E.Welton	
5	Thomas G. Robinson				
4	James Fuller	4.00			
10	Henry Merrill	10.00			
8.	Elias Patrick	8.00			
3,	Abram Kark	3.00			
5.	Nelson Stow.	5.00			
4.	Martin Dickson	4.00			
3	Signey Aornborger	3.00			
4	Margaret Blakslee	4.00			
2	Lois Stevens	2.00			
5	A. Manell	5.00			

385

Delevan, Ill
Jan 12, 1860? (5)

Dear Sister,

We are all in pretty good health. Baby is getting his eye teeth so is nerovus and irrita-ble. with o casional flashes of fever.

I am from home much of the time trying to supply preaching to some destitute churches Have agreed to visit and supply at Metamora, Ill. for ten weeks at $10 a week. There pastor is sick and has gone south for his h alth. It is 31 miles north east from here. I get nearly frozen in my long rides. I have been to Metamora three times.

I have a call to Belleplaine 18 miles farther north east. Have visited them twice and may move there in the spring. The main obstacle to this is they want preaching but ½ the time. And there is no field adjacent where I could put in the other ½ and get paid for it. The subscritpion at Belle plain had reached 354 dollars. It is a country place with a weekly mail. No school but a cheap dis rict school. My older children should have a better chance but it may be best to go there not withstanding. I would like to spend a few years in New York near my old home. If the Lord has work for me there and the bros. think I am the man. They all know of me or may through my large circle of relations there. When I seek directly by application a call from some church it will be to some one who is not able to pay and I am too poor for that yet. I cannot live on less than $600 in this state. But I presume $500 would go as far there. I want my children in a good school as I must now make it the great object of my life. Next to preaching the gospel to give them good training for lifes great battle that lies before them. They are all greatly pleased with the idea of ha having some nice presents from the money you sent. The older ones talk about some good boook to keep a long time in memory of Aunt Mary Ann. Avis says she wants "Songs for little ones at home". Lilla says,"get me a doll baby or a hoop skirt.

We have no book store in Delevan and no very good place to buy toys. So I will wait till I go some where before buying the presents.

F. is writing a compsition, Myra is making an apron, the needle flies but her eyes are tired, her fingers are tired, her back aches and she s is tired all over. But she does not fret as one would think she ought to. Myra has a hard tirme now doing all her work and I away so much. The girls will soon be able to help her more

We all sympathize with you very deeply in your bereavement and loneliness, yet we feel you know where to look for comfort and consolation thatis perenial and soulsatisfying. O! the sweet word "the Lord is my shepherd I shall not want". May it be fulfilled to you and your Sanford

Rev. Samuel Sanford Martin

Dear Aunt Mary,

I am a great big girl and do not know how to write yet and I am ashamed to say it. How is Thomas? I study spelling, reading, Geography and arithmetic. Pa has not bought our New Years presents yet. He is going to Peoria to get them. Excuse bad writing. Anser my letter soon. Good by, your niece Avis May.

Jan 12

Dear Sister,

willI feel very stupid this afternoon and fear I will not be able to say much. Yesterday I had a large washing which is the cause of my feeling as I do today.

This morning I received an invitation to go five miles into the country this evening to visit together withseveral of my acquaintances. It is very cold and the roads rough. So I do not think it would be prudent for me to go. I seldom visit or go from home at all excent to cu church. On the fourth instant I was called out b before day light where circumstances compelled me to be Doctor and nurse, being alone. O if you were here how much easier I could talk. The little boys Palmer and Bruce are doing the best they an while mamma write. Palmer is pringinthe letters that spell his name, to send to Aunt Mary Ann. He will be 5 in April and is beginning to spell and read easy sentences. Bruce was 2 in October. The children often speak of their cousins in thhe east and sometimes wish they could go back to live. It would do us all good to see you and the rest of our friends there. I wish some of them would come west to live. I should conent to going there (east) if Mr. Martin thought it best for us. My parents are getting old and while they live I wish to be near them. Their children have most all gone on ahead of them to the sprit land. Out of eleven only four remain. I sympathize with you in your trials and responsibilities. What you have passed through has undoubtedly h as an tendency to wean your affections from earth Were it not for your little ones you might desire ro depart. My prayer is that your life may be spared till they are able to swim the current of life alone. Kiss the dear ones for Aunt Myra. Please excuse me my head feels so badI cannot wrtre more. It is now time for the children to come from school. Uour affectionate sister

Myra.

Dear Aunt Mary,

I begin to write regardless of mode and you must not criticise. I was too small to remeb ber much when we were at Colesville. But there are some things I can remember. I think you were very kind to us children and me especially for I had the honor of wearing aunt Marys Sunbonnet whever I wanted to go and see Grand pas calf.

Lo e to all, your affectionate nephew

George S. Martin

No. 22 Orchard Street
July 31, 1860

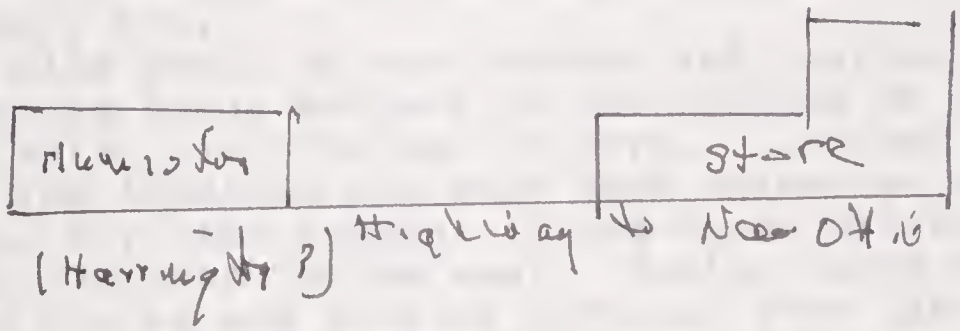
To J.D. and L.B. Bancroft

Dear Parents,

When writing my last I did not again expect to address you until I reached home, but fortune seems to sport with us in a curious manner. You father probably recollect that grandmother said if she could go to but one place she preferred to go to New York, and in the talk we had in Deposit you wished me not to say anything to her about going to Duchess unless she should speak about it first. So I said nothing to her about it. And as she had said nothing to me about it I supoosed it was all settled and we should come home as agreed upon, but it seemed as though it was not to be so. We came down here from Mr. Crane's house to Rhodes' house yesterday about 3 p.m. Last evening George told me that Grandma was going on to Duchess. You may know of course I was very much surprised at this, seeing as she had said nothing to me about it. So this morning I spoke to her about it and she said she was going alone and told me some things she wished me to tell Uncle Henry. I then told her I could not think of having her go alone. And if she wished to go alone, I stood ready and willing to go with her and wait upon her to the best of my ability. Rhodes, his wife and George all told her it would be improper and unsafe for her to go alone and told me I must go with her. When she found I would not let her go alone she said then she would return home. But I see she was not going to be satisfied without going there so I said all I could to get her to go to Duchess and finish her visit. Rhodes, George and Mrs. Cole all thought she should go by all means. So now I suppose we shall have to go. We shall probably be gone two weeks longer from home. She said if she were going alone she would stay five or six weeks. I have tried to

Aug 21, 1860

Between John D. Bancroft and Laura his wife of Colesville, County of Broome, and Albert Stone of Town and County aforesaid for $100.00; land in Willage of Harpursville, kn wn as the Claughter house and lot, bounded on the East by the highway to New Ohio, on the south by lot of Mr Harrington, formerly known as the James Fraisure lot ------



313 Delavan, Tezeweel Co. Ill.
Aug 22, 1860.

Dear Sister. (Irene?)

I wrote to Frederick yesterday and while I rest after dinner I will write to you. I am to go on the prairie six miles for a load of hay for one of the neighbors. And with the best of luck cannot get back before dark. We all, the whole family, 8 in number, start ed for the timber this morning to spend the day. Got plums, had a swim in the Macknaw river and a high time generally. Arriving at the edge of the woods onlu about 3½ miles from home we soon gathered three qyarts of bla cj berries, as many grapes, two big pales of plums, a cupful of black cherries and decided to come right home as mother and Bruse were getting rather tired. And it was yet three miles to the river. The children were all sadly dissappointed in losing their swim. And in having to retur n to the dull routine of ever y day work this afternoon. But providence favoring we will go again some time. Armed with our rod, line and flies to catch the little fishes. Healthful and incocent recreation is a necessity in our nature. "All work and no play, etc."

The wild fruit of our forests and praries are highly valued by us suckers in the absence of garden and orchard fruit., in this new country. I raised plenty of pieplant and tomatoes and make them answer as a kind of substitute for other things. I had hoped before this time you would visit us in the west, Seeing LeRoy has so many Aunts and Uncles and cousins here and your oldest brother abd his nounerous fanily are all here, It is a general time of health. Crops gathered were good, And those to gather are better. I can see no reasonw hy "the good times to come" is not near at hand for Illinois. Worldly property is not generallyngood for the soul, care and labor distractthe mind from spiritual things, so that unless God can give us his holy spirit in large measure "we shall wax fat and ~~stick~~ kick against the Lord".

Political matters trouble me somewhat. There are so many proslavery men all over our country, I expect Lincoln will be elected. I wish I was certain of it. Write immediately, Give our love to enquiring friends. Pry for us, Good bye Sanford.

Friday "Aug. 24.

George is quite unwell with diarrhoea. And mother is poorly like It is a cool pleasant morning. I must go to work in the garden having no job engaged for my teqm. I earn my bread with the sweat of my brow or chiefly by the sweat of my horses

Rev. Samuel Sanford Martin

1782 Delavan, Ill
Oct. 29, 1860

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Dear Sister,

Your long looked for letter cqme at last. The last word from Colesville was by your pen February last. O tell it not in Goth. I always reply to all the letters I get from all my friends and brothers and sisters. Two or three times without a word in reply. Struggling as I am under poverty and discouragement to keep th wolf away from the door. While trying to preach Christ among the destitute. It has been hard to bear such neglect from those so deqr to me. Zada wrote 3 weeks since from Wayne. But she remains unanswered, thru the press of cares and work. We were very sorry to hear of Irene's illness and hope she is bet ter before this, The typhoid fev r has been about here some, and there has been a few cases of bilious fever and some ague. Yet there has not been much sicknes for so many people. We had scarlatina among us in the summer, there were but few cases and only two proved fatal. It has been a time of great excitement in politics. Though I have had two much hard work on hands to attend many meet ings. We have all been well in the main. A little wee baby came to our house yesterday afternoon. Mother and child comfortable. Name will probably be Clarrie Melinda, Myras mother s name was Clarrisa Melinda. I am doctor and nurse. Flora stays at home from school and with the help of a poor stick of a girls whom we hire we shall mamanage to get along. I have never felt the pressure of poverty so great as during the past year. If I could only get my share of fathers estate it would do me much good. Un less I can seel my share soon I shall have to take steps to force a division. I could live on any corner or seel the same if I had cleqr title. Necessity knows no law. My children are growing up in rags and ignosrance. My wife works too hard for her health without necessary conveniences. It is my bounden duty to get some money and spend it soon or it will be too late to do them any good.

Well now, dont think that I feel to repine at my lot, ## I pray god to preserve me from that. He knows best and all our times are in his hands.

We have had dreadful bloody tragedy near Delavan. A women and two little girls murdered for money. Thenhusband was absent for the day In broad day light some ruffian pounded their heads all the pieces with an ax. Little money. less ha %80 was stollen. One of the men is in jail. The womens name was Orendorf. The marderers name is Ott. Love to all Sanford.

Rev S. S. Martin

#1887 Nov. 2, 1860

Indenture between Melinda Fosdick, Warren H. Youmans and Sarah his wife and Sarah all of Concard, Lake County Ohio, Solomon Youmans and Harriett his wife Charles Hammond and Pamelia his wife of the town of Menter, Lake County, Ohio; John V. Youmans and Sarah his wife of Augusta, Eauclare Co. Wisconsin legal heirs of Emelie Allen , late of Colesville, deceased and
William Hurlburt if colesville,N.Y

$1,900.00#

Parcel of land in the town of Colesville

22 acres

Mrs. W. O. Bancroft
Harpursville, N.Y

Nov. 19, 1860
Nebr.

Respected Friend,

I received your kind letter some time ago I thought the I should answer immediately but it was impossble. May is going to school now. She has one mile to go and we have only 2 months school this fall and no winter school. I feel she must improve every day and that leaves me so much to do I have very little time to read or write.

Today is our meeting at two oclock. Have preaching every other Sunday at that hour. Prayer meetings the other sundays. We are trying to sustain meetings in our neighborhood but it is hard work. One a few attend. Our nieghbors are mostly German and have no regard for the sabbath only as a visiting day. They visit, have a good time and drink their beers and wine. We have not much society here but are hoping better times are near. As new settlers come in. Some abetter class of people. It is being settled fast. We are to have a new railroad with in ten miles,of us. It will be ru ning by the first of January, They are at w work on a wollen mill five miles from us, so we are hoping for better times.

Very cold. There was a great deal of sy suffering in the blizzard in October, farther north. Good many cattle lost. No lives. A little father north of here there were 9 lives lost just going to their stables. Got lost and froze todaeht. Stafford has been very homesick but is more reconciled now. He is getting strong er every day. Does nearly as much work as any body. Such appetite as we all have is perfectly surprising. Tell Jennie if shewants to get well an strong, all she has got to do is come here. The wind here will blow all her aches and pains in s six months. She would soon be well and strong.

You spoke of my plants looking nice. I miss them very much. I have none. My Lilly that I brought died. There is a good many things that I should prize if I had them. Sorry I did not bing some things that I left.. I need the sofa and some chairs the most. And I know they are in your way. I should have them sent if I had money. I think there are things enough that that could be sold to pay the freight on them. As there is no one to see to it, I suppose I shall have to do without them. Abbie wrote to me some time ago and wanted to buy the bed room set. It does not seem as though I could part with it but do not know but I shall be abliged to. If she has it she must tkae the other things and take care of them till I can get them. If she comes for them I want you to take something for the trouble. If there is anything you would like. You spoke of fruits being ple nt-iful. I can tell you I miss the friut so much

as there is none here with he exception of plum:
Aunt Sally is failing. It does seem as though
she could not last much longer. She is a great
sufferer. I see I have got almost to the end o
of the sheet. I think you will be glad of it
I do not believe you can read what I have written
TellMrs Bancroft I shall be very glad to r
receive a letter from her. Give my love to all
whao take pains to enquire after me.

This from your friend

M. Montgomery.

1797 Harpursville, N.Y.
July 11, 1861

Pursuant to notice a meeting of true Union men con= vened at the post office in Harpursville for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of holding a Union Mass meeting. When on motion, William Coles was called to the chair and H.P.Bush was chosen Secretary.

On motion the following reso.ution was adopted.

On Motion, Thursday the 18th instant was fixed upon as the dsay of meeting at 10:00 am at Nineveh.

The committee on Resolutions reported to the meeting the following which was unanimously adopted.

Resolved

First.=That the condition in which we find our beloved country, as well as the attitude we are compelled to assume, is forced upon us by the aggressions of the Slave Powers, which has wantonly and without excuse assailed our peerless constit- ution, and sought to destroy the best government ever framed by man; and that, in the present crysis the call is for those who are on the side of the Country.

Resolved that the exiscting war is the attach of rebels upon the common liberties of the country and that they are to be respected as as a Common foe and as the assassins of Liberty. Enemies in war, once in peace friends.

Resolved. That the only method of settling the present controversy is by maintaining the integrity of the government against all machinations of Demogogues as the insidious traps of wiley politicians

Resolved. That is the present state of American affairs compromise is treason to the gov rnment of God and man and that the last demand of the rebels is that of unconditional adhesion to the constitution and the laws as expounded by the legally constituted tribunals of the country. That upon this platform we stand and by the grace of God will abide the issue.

Resolved. That the present administration in the high position they have taken to save the government from disso= lution have our sympathy and our undivided support and that in the high and patriotic stand they occupy. We will stand or fall with the country. And to this end we pledge our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.

Resolved. That in the recent spectacle presented to us of the so called Union meetings held thruout the country u under the auspices of Ward, Davis and Company we recognize a more subtle foe than open hostility, and that such enact= ments under the American flag is suggestive of a touching inquiry contained in Holy Writ. "Betrayest thou the son of man with a kiss."

Dr. J.D.Bancroft was chairman of then Resolutions Committee.

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Duplicate
of 393

Harpursville, July 11, 1861.

(The Mass Peace meeting proposal)

Pursuant to notice a meeting of the Union Men was convened at the post office in Harpursville for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of holding a Union Mass Meeting. On motion Wm. Hales was called to the chair and H. P. Bush was chosen Secretary.

On motion the following resolutions were adopted. On motion Thursday the 18 th inst. was fixed upon as the day of meeting at 10 oclock A.M. at Nineveh, N.Y. The committee on resolutions reported to the meeting the following which were unanimously adopted.

Resolve
First - That the condition in which we find our beloved country, as well as the attitude we are compelled to assume is forced upon us by the aggressions of the Slave Power, which has wantonly, and without excuse, assailed our peerless Constitution, and sought to destroy the best government ever framed by man; and that in the present crisis the call is for those who are on the side of the Country.

Second - The existing war is the attack of Rebels upon the common liberties of the Country and that they are to be respected as a common foe, and as the assassins of liberty. Enemies in war and in peace friends.

Third - That the only method of settling the present controversy, is by maintaining the integrity of the government against the machinations of Demagogues and the insidious traps of wily politicians.

Fourth - That in the present state of American affairs, compromise is treason to the Government of God and man and that the least demand made of Rebels is that of unconditional adhesion to the Constitution and laws as expounded by the legally consituted tribunals of the country, that upon this platform we stand, and together the Grace of God will abide the issue.

Fifth - That the present administration, and the high position they have taken to save the government from dissolution have our sympathy and our undivided support, and that in the high and patriotic stand they occupy. We will stand or fall with the Country and to this end we pledge our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.

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of
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Union Peace Meeting) July 11, 1861

Sixth - That in the recent spectacle presented to us by the South called Union Meetings held thruout the Country under the auspices of Wood, Davis and Co., we regcognize a more subtle foe than open hostility - and that such enactments under the American flag is a suggestive of a touching inquiry contained n Holy Writ,- "Betrayest thou the Son of Man with a kiss?"

Peace Petition (3) 1861

From the New York Weekly News, July 27, 1861.

Petition from the Broome County and Vicinity.

To the Horoable Senate and House of Representatives in Congress Assembled;

The undersigned citizens of the State of New York beg leave to present to your honorable body most respectfully the following petition; to wit.

While we hold our selves ready to maintain and uphold our government in the Constitutional exersixe of all its powers, yet we would respectfully pray, for the purpose of preventing the horrors of war, and for the securing the perpetuity of our Union, that you will adopt the policy of an immediate general Convention of all the states, as suggested in the Inaugural of the President, or any other compromise by which these ends can be attained. Ernestly deploring Civil War as the greatest calamity that can befall a nation, we pray you may adopt any course that may bring peace to our distracted country.

Job A. Demeru	John B. Elden	A.W.Brewson
William Gilmore	Alonzo Merchant	J.E.Underwood
David Harrington	Daniel R. Sime	Hor. Manderville
Geor Richards	Barnet Robinson	H.N.Dewiliger
Martin Kennedy	Laman Cohoen	Hubbard Wylie
E.P/Anthony	Whiting Ketchum	Jas. Eggleston
L.W.Harrington	Amassa Tyrrell	S.C.Weymouth
W.C.Harrington	Wm. H. Wynne	Sam'l H. Martin
Wm.P.Hilton	R.A.Jenkins	Lewis Preinburgh
John Flunslugh	H.B.Cornell	Sam. E.Porter.
Enos M. Johnston	Jas. A. Chaffee	Geo. M. Tyrrell
Geo Ostrander	Simon H. Willard	Ira Woodworth
Patrick Keenan	Sam Symmes	Timothy D. Parker
E.A.Trowbridge.	Alex Devereaux	Henry Johnston
Henry Muron	H.A. Olmdorf.	Sylver D. Parsons
Wm.P.Northrup	Orlando Morris	Harry Hendeville
Thomas Honceus	Edwin Holcomb	H.S.Dewiliger
Whiting Cornish	Samuel Doolittle	Richard Harve
Francis Gemmer	Martin Ruggles	Wm.T.Blakeslee
Franklin Tolbridge	John Davenport	Harper Dusebberg
A.R.Beardsley	Alphonse Jredd	Eleazer Birney
Jacob Demeree	N.P.Dewiliger	Fred P.Perry
H.F.T.Musor	Frank M.Hatt	C.M.Richards
A.J.Ketchum	Thom. H. VanHatt	Jesse Brown Jr.
W.S.Granniss	John Reynolds	Irwin T. Brown
Calvin D. Daley	David Robinson	Frank D, Chafee
J. Griswold	Nicholas Gardiner	Noble Palmer
S.W.Woodworth	Phillip Northup	Solomon Sneden
Chas Greenmun	Oliver T. Merrill	Geo. B. Barnes
F.G.Wheeler	Rob McIntosh	Chas. Beardsley
J.C.Reynolds	Cyrus Edwards	J. W.Dalton
J.W.Gilmore	Wm S. Savage	G.Brewton Barnes
Frank F. Casey	Philip Alexander	Johnson Hurd
Edwin Northrup	G.W.Welton	Hormer Halcomb

Levi Lezew	C.R.Blakeslee	Levi Clowder	C.A.Mason
W.Mudge	C,H.Church	N. Tyrrell	G.M.Briggs
L. Barnes	Wm.Ryan	R.A.Marvin	Alex.Wilday
R. Rolph	C. Reynolds	E.M.Brown	R.W.Moore
John Phrewt	S. G.Lord	E.G.Melius	A.Pixly
Feogg Head	Jas. Barker	Dan. Carpite	Jacob Willy
M. Cohoon	Barton Wylie	Phillip White	J.H.Hunt
Grover Briel	S.Martin	Wm.Light	C.M.Byer
A white	Geo Roberts	Geo. Lyon	Opickering
William Smith	Jesse Hall	John Kiernan	J.H.Barnes
Geo.T.Rixby	C.P.Blakely	H.P.Tyrrell	Jer.Stern
Isaiah Sneh	E.P.Head	George Wyllie	J.R.Hern
L. Burlington	W.G.Baker	John Wylie	T.F.Brown
A.F.Whitney	B.H.Welton	Kevi Clowder	Edward Wilby
L.Northrup	Jes Bodey	Jesse Brown	J.M.Chafee
J.C.Johnson	Joshua Light	Dr. Snider	H.E.Tyrrell
G.C.Lyon	J.P.Scott	A.L.Cohoon	E.C.Matheson
Henry Towey	Norman Hall	Rustus Hare	R.E.Dugan
John Wylie	Gat s Clark	G.F. Lackey	Henry Merrill
T.H.Oakind	H.P.Ensign	Stephen utter	Jas Canaan
G.H.Travis	Wm.T.May	John Veallay	Geo Ollendorf
Miles Putnam	A.H.Mason	Robt. Stewart	John J. Moot
J.Bedient	Rob Storr	Oakley Bainan	J.J.Colbins
D.Squire	Elex Eldred	N.B.Stowell	E.A.Baker
G.W.Ellison	Jas Chaffee	John viney	A.H.Searles
H.M.Jones	Alex Light	R.Hare	and many more

None of the Bancrofts signed this petition. Most of the leading families are represented

60
4 rows
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Peace Meeting and Peace Petition of 1861.

(Copied from the New York Weekly Day-book of Aug. 3 1861 by the local paper and reproduced for local distribution. This copy preserved among the papers of William O. Bancroft, Post Master of Harpursville.)

A Peace Meeting at Harpurs-ville, New York.

The people of the Town of Colesville and adjoining towns, Broome County, also the Counties of Chenango and Delaware, met at the Village of Harpursville Wednesday, July 10, pursuant to a call for a peace meeting of all the Union loving citizebs, irrespective of party. The meeting was the largest and most respectable ever held in the Town and may be put down as a true index to the feelings of the great body of the conservative people, who are already sick of this unatural war, and are willing to petition Congress to extend the olive branch of peace to our southern brethren. The meeting was called to order by the chairman, Melanthenon S. Manderville, of Coventry, afterwhich deacon Asabel Stowell, of Aften, offered a petition to Him is is the fountain of all peace. Then William Berrett, Esq., of Binghamton offered a stirring and eloquent address, which was listened to with almost breathless attention, followed by Col. John Smith, of Binghamton, and Alvin Devereaux, of Deposit, who did themselves great credit by their patriotic remarks, The following were some of the resolutions unanimously adopted by the meeting;

Whereas,- At the present time there exists a devided sentiment in our nation, which threatens a disolution of this Great Republic, the couses of which arise from a perverted opinion of one section in regard to the institutions of the other; and

Whereas,- A time has arrived in our national affairs which is calculated to try the loyalty of every American citizen, and bring into action those innate principles so long smothered by universal peace and prosperity, but now touched as by an electric, by the usurpations of our Chief Magistrate, who against all sanctions of law or Constitutional guarantees, has turned this once glorious Union and model Republic into a despotism unparalleled in the history of the world, Therefore

Resolved. That we ernestly desire to perpetuate

Peace Meeting (2) 1861

the Union of these states, and in the language of Andrew Jackson,"The Union must and shall be preserved; but the constitution cannot be maintained, nor the Union preserved in opposition to public feeling by the mere exertion of the coercive power confined to the general government. The foundation must be laid in the affections of the people, in the security it gives to life, liberty, character and property in every quarter of the country, and in the paternal attachment which the citizens of the several states bear to one another as members of one political fam - ily, mututally contribution to promote the happiness of each other, and as the Hon. Stephen A. Douglas said "Was is disunion".

Revolved - That our present Chirf Magisttate, by his own admission stands condemned before the Amercian people in the excersize of unconstitutional power, and has not hesitated to inaugurate war, to enlist a large standing army, to increase the navy, to sieze private papers and to suspend the right of habeus corcus.

Resolved - That we view with alarm the prospect of a large standing army as dangerous to and inconsistent with republican institutions; that the enormous expence of the present war will seriously burden our people,check the growth of our nation and wring the hard earnings from the hands of the toiling millions; that the prospective increase of the military power of the administration should admonish every loyal citizen that a military despotism is death to Amairican liberty.

Resolved - That the attempt by mobs and terrorism to suppress the free expression of opinion by the people, or the press, that the proatitution of our courts of justice for the purpose of one party to the exclusion of another, calls for and deserves the sternest condemnation by every true lover of law, order, liberty and the inalienable rights of men, and in view of many violations of the constitution, it becomes the duty! of every American citizen to unite in oposition to these alarming advances toward a despotism; and to agree upon and unite in concerted sction in the present crisis

Wm. O. Bancroft. 308 Fort Worth. Nov 16, 1861

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Dear Cousin.

I recieved your kind letter the seventh inst. And should have answered before but we left camp Howe that day and since have been moving here and there not knowin g where we would be stationed. After a series of marches, halts and orders without number we have finally been stationed on the "sacred soil of Virginia" in Fort Wirth. About 12 miles from Fairfax Courthouse. It is on the dir direct road to Bull Run. In as lovely a country as one wishes. But the war has left its mark here and will continue to do so. Fine fields desolated. Crops destroyed. Houses torn down. R.R.s des royed. You have read it all but one has to see it to realize it. I will give you a short descriotion of our j ourney here. I wish I could make it as intere ting for you as it has been for me.

We started from Staton Island Nov. seventh evening. The men being paid off the morning before as an unavoidable consequence. I suppose were most all drunk when we started such a lot of disorderly, demoralixed men , I never saw together. Some so beastly drunk that they had to be carted to the boart. We were all plaved in the cabin and with such a lot of men you can imagin that it was not very pleasant. We were to be taken by water to Amboy, the rest of the way by rail, We got in Phildelphia the next morni ng about day light. We bre kfasted at the volunteer aide societies hotel. This is a fine arrangement. It is fur - nished by the loyal men of the city and tended by the ladies. After breakfast we had to march about the city f for a while just to show our selves. The men had got somewhat sober (I will state there was not one of our company drunk) It was all enthusiasm here. Haraw boys f for the war. We got started for Baltimore about 10:00 am This was a fine ride. The country below the city down to Delaware is the most I ever saw. Then one can see the influence of the peculiar institutions on the same country It is not favorable. Wilmington Delaware was the first s slave city we passed through, it is loyal but not so patriotic as Philadelphia. We first saw int influence os of secession at the fairy across the Susquehannah, pickets being stationed from there to Washington to keep sesseionists from tearing up the R.R. track., and making other demonstrations. We stayed all night in Baltimore. Which by the way is a loyal city. Perhaps the alarge gu ns in the new fort back of the city has some influence to make it so. We had to sleep on the floor. About 500 in the room. We got into Washington the next night about 8 pm. A tired and hungry set of fellows. And had what e we had not had since we have been in the service at government cost a supper on tables with seats toset on snd all in a well lighted room. We stayed all night here sleeping s before. The next day being Sunday we did not do anything. The next day about 3 pm. we started for our present station about 13 miles which we marched in about thre hours When we got here we were just the same as tr tired out. I and one other slept under a cannon between the wheels. We felt rather old the next morning. I think we shall astay here all winter I am much abliged for your kind offer Any reading material which you can spare will be gladly recieved. Writing material is scare We aeboth well, together all the while. He is one of ourcooks If you have anything to do with patriotic associations

you would do well to suggest that the only clothing needd by the soldiers now flannel shirts and mittens. I have both but there are a good many that stand sadly in need of them. It has been cold today. We both send love to yourself and people. Remeber us in your prayers,

Yours affectionately
A.J.Birdsall

filed in documents.

Fort Worth Nov 16, 1861 1861

Wm O Bancroft, Dear Cousin I received your kind letter the 7th inst and should have answered before but we left Camp Howe that day and since have been moving here and there not knowing where we should be stationed, after a series of marches, halts, and orders without number we have finally been stationed on the Sacred soil of "Virginia" in Fort Worth about 12 miles from Fairfax Court house it is on the direct road to Bull Run, in as lovely a country as one wishes, but the war has left its mark here and will continue to do so Fine fields desolated crops destroyed houses torn down Rail Roads destroyed you have and it all but one has to see it to realize it I will give you a short description of our journey here I wish I would make it as interesting to you as it was to me, We started from Staten Island Nov 7th evening the men being paid off the morning before as an unavoidable consequence I suppose we remost all drunk when we started such a lot of disorderly demoralized men I never saw to get so some so beastly drunk that they had to be carried to the boat - we were all placed in the cabin and with such a lot of men you can imagine that it was not very pleasant - we were to be taken by water to Cumberland the rest of the way by rail We got in Philadelphia the next morning about daylight, we breakfasted at the Volunteer Aid Societies Hotel, this is a fine arrangement it is furnished by the loyal men of the city and tended by the ladies

after breakfast we had a march about the city for a while just to show ourselves the men had got somewhat sober (I will state that there was not one of our 6 o drunk) it was all enthusiasm here. - hurrah boys for the war, We got started for Baltimore about 10 o'clock A.M. This was a fine ride the country below the city down to Delaware is the most [illegible] then one can see the influence of the peculiar institution on the same country - it is not favorable, Wilmington Del. was the first slave city we passed through it is loyal but not so patriotic as Philadelphia, we first saw the influence of [illegible] at the Ferry across the Susquehanna Pickets being stationed from [illegible] Washington to keep secesh from tearing up the R.R. track and making the demonstrations. We stayed all night in Baltimore which of the way is a loyal city perhaps the large guns in the new fort each of the city has some influence to [illegible] it so, we had to sleep on the floor about 5 o'clock in the room. We got in Washington the next night about 8 o'clock a tired hungry set of fellows, and [illegible] what we had not had since we have been in service at government cost - a [illegible] with seats to set on, and all in a well lighted room we [illegible] all night here sleeping as before - the next day being sunday we did [illegible] the next day about 8 o'clock P.M. we started for our present station about 13 miles which we marched in about 3 hours, when we got here we were just the same as tired out, we had to sleep on the ground I and 8 other slept under a canvas between the wheels we felt after old the next morning I think we shall stay here all winter, I am much obliged to you for your kind offer any reading matter which you can spare would be gladly received writing material is pretty scarce here as you may judge by this. We are both well together all the while he is one of our [illegible] if you have anything to do for the Patriotic Association you would do well to suggest that the only clothing needed by the soldiers now is plain [illegible] shirts and mittens I have both but there are a good many that [illegible] in need of them it has been quite cold to day. We both send our [illegible] to your self and people remember us in your prayers yours affectionately

A. J. Birdsall

To Wm C. B[illegible]

#1318

Fort Worth.
Nov. 16, 1861.

Dear Cousin,

I received your kind letter of the seventh. Should have answered before but we left Camp Howe that day and since have been moving here and there not knowing where we should be stationed. After a series of marches, halts and orders, we have finely been stati iohed on the "Sacred Soil of Virginaia" in Fort Worth about 12 miles from Fairfax Court House on the direct road to Bull Run. The was has left its mark here, fine fields desolated crops, destroyed houses, railroads destroyed.

We started from Staton Island November seventh. The men being paid off the morning before, as an unavoidable consequence, were most all drunk when we started. Such a lot of disorderly, demoralized men I saw together. Some so beastly drunk they had to be carried to the boat. We were all placed in the cabin and with such a lot of men you can imagim it it was not very pleasant. We were to be taken to Amboy and then by rail. We got in Philadelphia next morning about day light. We breakfasted at the Volunteer Aid.Society Hotel. It is furnished by the loyal men of the city and tended by the ladies. After breakfast we had to march about the city to show ourmelves. The men had got somewhat sober. It was all enthusiasm here,"Hurrah boys for the war". We got started for Baltimore about 10 am. This was a fine ride, the country below the city down to Delaware is the most beautiful I ever saw. Then one can see the influence of the peculiar institution on the same country. It is not favorable. Willmington was the first slave city we passed through. It is loyal but not as patriotic as Philadelphia. We saw the first influence of secession at the fairy across the Susquehanna, pickets being stationed there from Washington to keep secessionistw from tearing up the track or making other demonstrations. We staid all night in Baltiiore which is a loyal city. Perhaps the large guns in the noew fort back of the city have some influence to make it so. We had to sleep on the floor, about 500 in the room. We got into Washington the next night a tired hungry set of fellows. There we had a supper on tables with seats to set on, all in a well lighted room, something we had not had since we entered the service. We staid all night here sleep- as before. The next day being Sunday we did not do anything. The next day about 3 pm we started for our next station, 13 miles which we marched in three hours. But when we got there we were just the same, tired out. We had to sleep on the ground. I and three others slept under a canon, between the wheels. I felt rather cold the next morning. I think we shall stay here all winter. I am much obliged to you for your kind offer. Any reading matter will be gladly received. Writing material is scarce here as you may judge by this. We are both well, together all the while. He is one of our cooks. If you have anything to fo with patriotic associations you would do well to suggest that the only clothing we need now is flannel shirts and mittens. I have both but there are a food many who stand sadly in need of them. It has been quite cold today. We noth send our love to you and your people. Rememeber us in your prqyers.

Yours affectionately

A.J.Birdsall

Wm. O. Bancroft.

1755 Washington, Dec. 11,1861

Dear Sister,

Yours of the first inst. came duly to hand. We all "give you joy". May we nor you ever see cause to regret the new relation. The Lord is o good, may he be our portion for ever. I wish Mr Stevens would gather up his little family and make us a visit. I can scarcely believe I am guilty of neglecting to write to you as your letter charges. though I acknowledge the receipt of one with the money in it before this last, Justice required that I should have written before, yet there is wome excuse in professional and family cares with war times and pverty.

Albert wrote asking me what I would sell my share for and also what I would be willing the farms should settle for. I sent him my price and asked what he would rent it for to me.

He has written since, but could not answer my question and said nothing about acc epting my offer, $760 I think. Some one offered him $6.000 for the home farm. Why didn't he"let her slide"?

I shall be forced to get a division by a legal process unless I can sell out my share. The distribution of my family drives me to every expedient to keep the wolf away from the door. Many thank for the three dollars. They are not the first for which I am inde bted to you,

May you prosper in your basket and in your note and i health "even as your soul prospers".

I have no good news in the church to write. Congregations and S.S. small Went to an ordination last week in Mason City, 46 miles from here, Started on foot with staff and satchel But wuite unexpectedly and Providentially got rides most of the way. Exchanged with Bro. Willmarth at West Amora. and owe for my hack ride both ways. So it goes, And yet the Lord reigns

We are all in comfortable health except that Myra is worn out with overwork The four oldest children are in school where we are trying to keep them altho they are not furnished with proper facilities.

Dont worry about the follish actions of the boys in giving you an unsesonable and uncouth cerenade They are doubtless ashamed of it before this time. But if not dont let them know you are disturbed about it.

I too dream and often of the halcyon days of childhood. And the companions of my early years Sweet memories charm my waking hours as I l ok backward over a path not all strued with flowers and yet not all studded with thorns. I have had and still have much to be thankful for. But can we not both take up the words of the hristian poet and say "the few lucid mornings that dawn o n us here are enough for lifes woes and full enough for li fes sheer.

There are dear ones dependent upon us with whom it would be hard to part. Still the great God in heaven would rule here on earth as well if we were dead now. over

We have had a pleasant mild fall. There was snow on the grourd a week ago, but none now. It froze some last night. We occupy a comfortable house , though small with neighbors as close as can be all arou d.

If any one was coming from the east to this place it would not be best to go to Chicago but strike for Logans Port from Toledo, then on the peoria road to Washington.

Love to Bro S. the children and all friend. bro L?

Farewell

S. S. Martin

The Baptist Church and Society in Account with Wm. O. Bancroft, treas.

By Cash received from Jan. 9 to Nov. 13, 1859		$14.06
" " " " " 8 to Dec. 9, 1860		11.92
" " " " " 18 to " 1861		10.67
" " " " " 9 to Sept. 14, 1862		7.03
		43.68

Contra-

Jan. 12, 1859	for 3 lights of glass	.18
Mach 18, 1859	L. Humiston	3,00
July 29, 1859	" "	3.00
Sept. 1859	" "	3.00
Dec. 1859	" "	3.00
Jan. 25, 1860	H. A. McKenzie for wood	1.25
Nov. 1860	" " " "	1.25
April 9, 1860	for fluid	.19
May 21 1860	L.H. for cutting and carrying wood	.50
	" " " 2 cords of wood	6.00
June 11, 1860	" " tow brooms	.40
Mach 16, 1861	H,A.Wakeman	1.00
	I cord of wood from Pratts	3.00
	4 cords from Dort	3.50
		29. 27
		14. 41

January 3, 1853 Mond

Doctor John Demarest Bancrfot, Harpursville, 52, Morrison
dr. to $1.00 for Gate F.-----

DeLos Hinman v. m, venesection 1.25

1862 List of Officers of the Sunday School
of the Baptist Church

Superintendent - Rev. N. Wright
Assistant Superintendent - Henry Leach
Librarian - Lyman Eldred

Teachers
Class #1 - Sister W. O. Bancroft
#2 - Sister J. D. Bancroft
#3 - Brother W. O. Bancroft
#4 - Sister Harriett Stowe
#5 - Sister J. N. Stevens
#6 - Doctor J. D. Bancroft
#7 - Brother A. Kark
#8 - Brother Henry Leach
#9 - Nelson Stowe
#10 - Edward Stowe
#11 - Mary Martin

Class membership ranged from 4 to 10.

#1245
W,O,Bancroft, Esq.
Nineveh, N.Y.

Baltimore Maryland
Jan. 30, 1862

Dear Son,

As I am abliged to lay over here today on account of not being able to get on the steam boat yesterday and as it is raining today I am consequently confined to the hotel. You can readily conceive it is not very pleasant especially as the company is not the most agreeable. A liquor tavern with drinking, smoking and swearing in the Bar room and playing cards in the sitting room, with a Roman Catholic New Testament and three old news papers lying around. But it is not as bad as it might be as there are but few around. I have not seen a man who I could call drunk. I heard quite a discussion on the times and slavery in the saloon this morning between an old inhabitant and a youg souther. All in good na ure, not withstanding the old man said they must be killed, repeatedly. Said he had two sons in the army and if he was not so old he would go himself. They, southerners, had got to be killed and the sooner the better. But I must say more about myself. I found I should have to stay here all day, so I thought I would go on to Washington and pay my respects to the dignitaries there. But when I came to the Whitehous to call on the President I was politely told that it was not the proper hour to receive visitors or it was the business hour of the cabinet and when I went to the departments it was the same thigg. Sec. Stanton's hour for receiving Senators so I began to fear I would not get much of a glimpse of the men making history and who are wielding the destiny of not only this generation of this nation but of other lands and coming times. And I do thank God that their hearts and the destinies of all of us are in the hands of the Infinite One. So I accepted the courteous invitation to look over the big house, etc, and after looking over the exterior I concluded to go down to the capital to see what our Congress was doing. But in front of the Presidents house I saw a colored man passing abd thinks I to myself since my mission is to his race it would be well to begin cultivating and acquaintance and so ascertain if I have the requisite qualifications for my busibess. So I soluted him and he gave immediate and polite attention. I learned that he was a bearer of dispatches betwen the Bureaus and when he learned why I had left the endearments and comforts of hoke, he became very much interested in me and offered to be my conductor. So you see I found access to the magnificant building by the back door. Not as a burgler but as a free citizen. My conductor was quite an intelligent fellow and had a heart, When in Sec. Stanton's office I sent up my card Asst. Sec. Watson was readily called up. He took me into the Sec. Anteroom where I was gratified to see the Secretary Himself who is highly applauded for his genius in establishing order out of confusion. I also saw Gen. McLelland and several other leading men.

I found Washington truly a city of magnificant distances and mud. I next vistied the Smithsonian. I shall not attempt description. Suffice it to say that altho my time was sollimited that I could see but little and devote but brief tiie to that little, it waw enough to over pay the fatigue which was considerable. I will mention the dying gladiator, a statue in marble which alone is worth the visit, to say nothing of the natural and artificial curiossities from every portion of the earth and every department of science. Among which, not the least were what once constituted a part of the Founders of our Republic and the organizers of our goverment and rulers of our nation as the heirs of the Father of our Country, all our presidents.

Your father
J.D.Bancroft.

Department of Virginia.
Headquarters Fort Monroe.
Jan. 31, 1862.

Sentinel Unit pass the bearer, Mr. J.D.Bancroft to the Seminary - Camp Hamilton to visit Mr. Lockwood.

John G. Wood
Major Gen.

#1245

Hygeia

Hygeia Hotel, Fort Monroe
Feb. 1, 1862.

Dear Son,

I find that my mind like my body does not recover from the affects of excitement as readily as it once did. Or I might have finished this letter in time to send it from Baltimore. On my arrival yesterday at six AM, after taking the required oath at the Provost Martials office, was conducted into the office of Gen. Wool in the Fortress. He directed me to attend to the business of teadhing but not to interfere with his or the goverments business. Stated that he had appointed a commision of officers to look into some matters respecting some of the actions of agents of the body under which I was acting, etc. He readily gave me a pass so I left for the fort to go to the Seminary in order for a meeting with Mr. Lockwood. Whom I met and we readily recognized each other among the throng. From him I ascertained somthing of the nature of the difficulty so I did not wish to become iiplicated in respect to it. I again requested an interview with the General, altho I had much misgiving about being admitted. Still I obtained an audience and threw myself upon his protection and requested his written sanction for my permission to teach the contrbands within the Fortress, disconnected from Mr. Lockwood. But the General, altho favoring instruction would not takeupon himself any responsibility fearing as I conjectured the displeasure of the pro-slavery influence. So I am obliged to wait and learn the result of the Commision of investigation. But this matter of difficulty you had better not divulge until you know the result. I find the feeling against us is very bitter. But the poor darkies are very much elated. I like Mr. Lockwood very much. I think he is a right man in the right place and I think very much a gentleman and a warm hearted Christian and not afraid of their terror. I think his proslavery opponent will hear from him from a quarter which will will make himwish he had let him alone. He says that altho I have arrived at a dark time and when I cant go i mediately to work, still he thinks it is very opportune as to the influence it will have. He was glad I had come. They would cheerfully pay all the extra expense as I had to go to the hotel where the expense would be double. But I hope my friends in our region will contribute some if not the whole of it. Perhaps Elders wright and Merrill and others will assist by explaining the nature of the work and taking up collections. Who knows but what Uncle Robert P. will take hold of it. I must close by wishing you all health and happiness, praying for you all and requesting yours.-

Yours in dependence upon the Savior,

J.D.Bancroft

to
Wm. Oscar Bancroft

1243 (3)

Febr. 15, 1862

My Dear Wife, Laura,

Your letter came to hand while I was laboring under a good deal of bodily and mental depression, having been afflicted for several days with a diarrhea, which altho not severe and at home would not be much noticed, yet here under all these incomveniences and depressing circumstances is very annoying. And it is attended with prolapses and tenseness which here especially is uncomfortable. But I am not alone in being affected with nostalgia as others around me are almost if not quite as bad as myself. A Mr. Hardcastle from Long Island returns home today, having taught four or five weeks.

Wed, the 19th, Rain all morning and I followed the advice of Mr Lockwood and staid in the Seminary. But it is dull business. The company is wild enough and noisy, some actually vicious but I can find any amount of good reading. If I could only hear from you every day. My thoughts are dull and I am stupid enough. Pray for your ever affectionate husband,

J. D. Bancroft

1247 (2)

Febr. 15, 1862

Dear Caty,

It is very rainy and so I do not feel very well and cannot go out. You can form something of the pleasure and thrill of tenderness which possessed me when the post boy brought your letter. I like your style of writing. Take a little more pains as to the penmanship. But my pleasure is in hearing from you all and gratitude for your health, thought and feelings of sadness and sorrow, oppress me at the state of Brother Nathan. I shall probably almost surely never see him again on earth. I cannot but think of the uncertainty of human life and of the possibility that I too may be stricken down and never see my loved ones again. If in the dispensation of a wise and good Providence this should be so I hope and pray and trust that a kind and loving Saviour will have mercy upon us and enable us to exercise repentance and a saving faith in him so that we may all meet around His Throne where sin, sorrow and parting will never disturb us more. God bless you, my dear Caty, how would I like to hug you to my bosom once more. How prettily you write about little Jane. How I should like to hear her prattle. That is the way to write; it sounds so homelike. Dont try to write formal but just as you do. If you have not answered Leonards letter, give sister Elisa my sympathies and point her to the Saviour as the only true source of comfort. Say to her, this is my conviction that our loving Redeemer thus calls us to himself. May this sorrow be sanctified to her eternal welfare. But the dinner bell calls at eleven minutes past two oclock and I perceived i have rather forgotten myself and am writing to dear Caty as if I was addressing her dear Ma.

I sometimes fancy how comical it would appear to you if you could just peep in and observe and see your old father sitting surrounded by a room full of ebony faces teaching Ba Ba, bi bi bo bo boo boo. No bo spells bo, not bu, now try again and pronounce every letter plain. And remember open your mouth and pronounce bo bo not bu nor boo. Well begin, ba ba right go one, "bee" no be spells bee. Well, go on "Bi Bi then Bo. No not boo or bu but bo. Look how I pronounce it bo.

Your loving father,

J. D. B.

1265

Harpursville, Friday 21, 1862

Dear Father,

We are once more at home and by that you may judge, truly that for all I thought I should like to live at Nineveh so well, it does not seem like home. We got home yesterday in the afternoon. Elder Wright has gone up to Mildord and Maryland and as he expected us home in the forenoon instead of the afternoon he had got no one to take care of the stock and they were pretty hungry having had nothing to eat since the day before. Ma Feeds them morning and night and I at noon. I commenced knitting a collar for Ma. And last night I began knitting a stocking. But today Aunt Tacy said if I would crow shay her some
crochet
mittens she would knit on the stockings. I went down to Libby Vinton's and stayed part of the afternoon. Aunt Tacy says I must tell you we think of your every time we eat and wish you could have as good vitals as we do.

Sat. Febr. 22, Another week is done. How time does fly. The winter will soon be gone. This morning I went out and slid on the crust a while. Then I took your iron staff (and that made me think of you) and punched holes in the crust in the shape of my name, in fact it seems as though I thought of you all the time. Aunt Tacy made her a new cap this forenoon. I gave her some ribbon to trim it with. I was so careless as to leave my diary at Nineveh. Ma had got quite a hard cold. And is so hoarse she can hardly talk. I started my watch and it runs rather good. Eld.Wright's folks have not got home yet. Ma has baked some bread today. We had birdsnest for dinner and it was good. Ma has been putting some soles on my sox. She cut up your old white hat to make them of. Our paper did not come today so I took Elder Wrights out of the office. There were a good many of them.

Sunday, 23rd., Dear father, all the folks have gone to meeting except me. I expected to stay home and take care of Jennie but she has not come down. She and her mother have hard colds and I presume that is the reason. Ma has got such a cold she cannot speak loud but she has gone to meeting.

It rains up in this country. What does it do

where you are. We have been sitting in the dark since 6:30 thinking of you. Wondering if you were thinking of us. The snow is clear up to our window in the corner and I believe it has broken down some of the meeting house sheds up at Nineveh. Brother said when he came down to meeting that he had tired himself clear out clearing off roofs. I should think there would be a great breaking up of the river if this thaw continues much longer. Ma can talk some better than she could this morning. Old Uncle Moon preached today. He came down with brother. A week seems a long time to wait for a letter from you and we were a littledisappointed in not getting one yesterday.

Monday, 24; Dear Father, this morning it rained quite hard and now it is snowing and blowing hard. This morning I got up and made the bed and Ma went down to the wagon house. Tonight she could hardly get across the road to ask Dr. Harry to do the chores for her. It stormed so very hard. I commenced studying Good's Book of Nature today. I got all my other lessons and crochet some on Aunt Tacy's mittens. In fact I feel pretty well satisfied with my days work today. Ma Washed. The cistern pipe froze and burst, a great big hole. I brought in pine wood and filled the oven up. And the under part was seasoned wood. Ma has not been very hoarse today. Seems like real March weather.

Tuesday 25th, Dear Father, Brother, Clora and Jennie came down today. So I did not get my afternoon study but I got them in the forenoon. Jennie grows prettier every day. I am going to fix up that little dolls cradle for her. Igot it out while she was here. Made a doll out of a piece of cloth. She rocked it just as nice as could be. It is clear but cold. Aunt Tacy does not feel very well. She thinks she has a cold. Ma's cold is better. Aunt Tacy pieced eleven blocks for a quilt. I crocheted around four times on Aunt Tacy's mitten.

Wednesday, 26; Dear Father, It has been mild today. I went down to the coopers shop and got a big basket of shavings. Our old rooster has froze his comb and he looks down cast.

Caty.

1247

410

Seminary, Fortress Monroe,
Febr. 22, 1862

Wm. O Bancroft, Esq.,
Nineveh, N. Y.

Dear Son,

Although this si Washington's Birthday, a day devoted to rejoicing in all the loyal states and I hear the booming of guns from the fort in commemoration, still I am not very jubilant. Things drag heavily with me. It is raining all day and as it is Saturday I have no school. I am not well enough to be out visiting. I am confined in the house. Have read until my head aches. Breakfast hot biscuit and rare done fresh pork. My digestion is not of the best. Bowels irregular, sometimes costive and sometimes too loose. You can concur that I am not enjoying myself as I should at home. But still my situation is better than I deserve. I have comfortable shelter from the storm and a comfortable bed and I feel I am doing some good to trodden down humanity. The scholars are making some progress in learning. And in visiting from house to house, or rather miserable shanties, I find many of the colored people who evidently give evidence of piety and love to talk about the Savior and others who do not profess religion still love to have the subject introduced. Say they have thought much on the subject and seem to have a proper sense of the spirituality of genuine religion.But as you can well comprehend the previous training of this people has been such that there are a great many things very exceptional in their character. Their constant habit of deception practiced toward their masters to avoid punishment and their cringing subserviancy and flattery with show itself.

To me their condition appears almost hopeless. What is to become of this vast multitude. If some means are not speedily provided for them to obtain a livelihood. I fear they will sink into hopeless vice and still lower state of wretchedness.

Sure, here is land enough for them to till so as to provide a supply of food. But where are the teams, tools and seed to come from. How are they to fence and protect their crops. They will constantly require supplies of clothing. For they are proverbially improvident. Clothing is now sent on from the

North but it is generally of poor quality. A good deal of it worn. And some utterly worthless. For instance boots and shoes, which to be of any use, requiring some mending but no one to do it and no means of doing it, no leather, no tools, no skill. Of what use is it.

Sunday, 23. This morning heard that the Mrs. Peake of which we have heard so much died of consumption. They reside close by the Seminary. I attended meetings twice today. The black or dark colored brethren performed most of the exercsizes as all reading of scripture and praying and most of the preaching and exhortation and singing and they have very correct ideas of doctrine. But I fear they are being corrupted.

Monday, 24. Pleasant, high wind. Mrs. Peakes funeral attended. Mrs. Lockwood is so anxious to have the"scholars" whom she was the first to teach be in the room and take a conspicuous part, especially in singing her favorite hymn, "There is a rest, etc." The room was so full I could not get in and after standing out in the strong wind as long as I could, and not being able to hear I returned to my room to finish this. Mrs. Peakes' experience was a rather striking one and her death a happy one. Mr. Lockwood is starting a new project to "colonize" the black from this to South Carolina. If he should succeed he will take the best of them from here. Which will probably break up the church. And leave the poorer sort here to go to ruin. But who knows what God has in store for us. If he stays herewill, if he has not already overthrown all Baptist influence here. But this I wish to be kept among ourselves as it would be called the croaking of a superstitious prejudiced old fogey.

Things move very slow so far as I am concerned. The Chaplain of one of the regiments just told me that the troops were to move from here soon. But of course it must not be told where. But conjectures says upon Norfolk.

Four or five buildings mostly occupied by contraband were consumed by fire at the Fort.

26. As well as usual.

Yours,

J. D. B.

Febr. 29, 1862

Dr. John D. Bancroft,
Fortress Monroe,

I finished Aunt Tacy's mitten today. Got a good start on another. I commenced a doll's bed quilt. Mr. Stockwell came up tonight to see if he could put some hams in the smoke house. He had to inquire whether you had gone to Fortress Monroe. The folks do not seem hardly to know yet.

Thursday 29; Brother and Clora came down today but did not bring a letter from Pa. I wonder what the matter is. Aunt Tacy says he is sick but I can hardly believe it. It seems to me as though he is coming home. I dreamed last night that Fortress Monroe was taken by the rebrls and you were taken prisoner and come home on parole and had got to go back. I dream about you most every night. Our old rooster was getting better so he was quite cheerful and was taking a walk around the door yard and a dog came along and had to kill him. I felt real provoked. Have negroes got the same colored blood? Aunt Tacy and I got to talking about it and I would like to know.

Sunday, March 2; I suppose you will wonder at the date of this but Friday night I did not feel well and Sunday Libby Wright and her mother were over here. Elder Wright's folks got home Thursday night. I finished Aunt Tacy's mottens. Went over to Elder Wright's in the afternoon. Evening I had to stay at home and take care of Jennie. It has been a pleasant day. We thought we would get a letter yesterday but none has come. I do wish I knew what the matter is.

Monday, March 3; Elder Wright's folks have commenced moving in here. Ma has washed and Aunt Tacy has regulated the little butlery. I have helped some but generally felt like a fish out of water. It has rained all day and has frozen as it touched the ground.

Tuesday, March 4; I received your letter this afternoon and was very sorry to learn you are sick and homesick. I think you had better come home. I shant have them abusing you. Eld. Wrights folks are going to stay here tonight. They have not got all moved yet. Elder Wright is in here and he says some intruders have got into the back room. I have

been pretty busy today. Have been over to the other house and brought things over here. Elder Wright says you should never give up to you make the little darkies say b, o, bo. Elder wright wants me to tell you he has not minded you about feeding the old mare oats. He has got her quite fat. He drove her today beside of his to bring the goods. We have been popping some corn. The Elder says that he wants to write you if he only knew how to direct. My page is full.

Yours truly,
Caty.

Strictly private at request of my husband L. Leach.

Jackson
January 19, 1863

J. D. Bancroft

Dear Brethren,

Your communication has come to hand, but to answer it may be more difficult than you can conceive. I have showed it to Elder Curtis who was for several years a faithful advisor in my early ministry and whom I have regarded a very safe counselor but after telling him the circumstances as well as I am able I have waited in vain for an opinion as to what he thinks to be my duty. I feel deeply anxious for the prosperiny of the church but have questioned whether I could serve it acceptably or profitably. It has seemed to me a stranger who knowing nothing of the circumstances, if such a one could be found, adapted to the place, would be better qualified now to unite the discordant elements and build up the cause. Personally I am a friend to Elder Wright so far as I know he has always been a friend to me, but I seriously doubt if it is his duty to preach the gospel and if he is to remain at Harpursville I cannot feel it is my duty to undertake the pastoral care of that church. What reason have you for saying he will leave in the spring or before? If it is only his word, that ought to be sufficient but it is not, for he does not weigh all that he says nor do many things that he promises. If I thought it duty to labor in that field I do not think there would be much difficulty about salary. I should wish enough so I could hire some on the farm and have my time for pastoral duty. But I should not need as much as Elder Wright or Elder Reynolds received. $350.00 is all I feel I could ask or I would receive, or I would receive a portion of that in grain or fruit, etc. if any of the brethren preferred it.

I have always had those articles to buy and expect to while I remain on that little place. I cannot give you a decisive answer now but would be glad to hear from you again. I hope to get Elder Curtis's opinion before long as to what he thinks is my duty. I am trying to make it a subject of prayer.

Yours in the gospel,
D. F. Leach.

P.S. The interest in the meetings is on the increase and there are several cases of great anxiety, some few have found peace in believing.

Treasurers Report for the year of 1863
Jan. 12, 1859

BaptistChurch and Society

In account with William O. Bancroft, treas.

Cash received from Jan9 to Nov. 13, 1859		$14.06
" " "	Jan 8 to Dec. 9, 1860	11.92
" " "	Jan 12 toDec 10. 1861	10.67
" " "	Jan 1 to Sept. 14 1862	7.03
		43.68

Contra.

Jan.12 1859	window lites	.18
March 18	L. Humaston	3.00
July 29	" "	3.00
Sept 29	" "	3.00
Dec. 29	" "	3.00
Jan.25	for one load of wood H.A.McK.	1.25
Nov.	" " " " " "	1.25
April 9, 1860	for fluid	.19
May 21	for cutting and carrying wood	.50
" "	for 2 Q	6.00
Jan. 11	two brooms	.40
March 14	H.A.Wakeman	1.00
" "	5 cords of wood	6.50
		29.27

balance $14.41

Notice.

Is hereby given that the anual meeting of the first Baptist Church and Society in Colesville, will be held in the Baptist Meeting house in Harpursville, on Saturday the 13th day of June next at 4 oclock P.M. for the purpose of choosing two Trustees for the term of three years in place of Henry Merrills and George Colington (whos terms of office will expire on that day)

signed G W. Stow Harry Martin
Samuel Hurlburt John Martin

And to transact such other business as may be deemed proper or necessary

Wm. O. Bancroft
Clerk of the Board of Trustees.

Dated May 23, 1863

January 5 1853 Wednesday.

Doctor John Demarest Bancroft, Harpursville, 52, Self and Brizzee (tenant farmer) drawed 2 loads of wood.

Brother Patrick's, New York
January 25, 1862

William O. Bancroft
Nineveh, Broome Co., N. Y.

Dear Son,

Yesterday when I wrote you I was very tired and thought I was almost sick, but after tea and rest felt better and attended prayer meeting which was very good. Visited and slept some. Did not feel very well till this afternoon when having rest all day I slept some in the a.m. Feel quite comfortable but as it has rained all day I did not venture out, although I had intended to visit the office. I expect my not doing so will cluster business on Monday morning.

I did not go up to Dick's or Crane's as it was evident we were about to have a storm and I felt too unwell and thought I would rather be with Sister Patrick for I shall probably call on them on my return. I have had a good visit here. They appear to be enjoying themselves well.

January 28, New York, 61 John Street, a.m. Did not get off as I expected and how it snows, but it is all in good providence. Stayed all night with Sister Patrick. She is just as good and kind as ever. They were all very kind. Yesterday I visited at Mr. Dick's, all well. Took dinner with Cather C. Appeared glad to see me. Urged me hard to stay. After dinner called on D. Crane. Saw only him and his wife. They were all well and doing well as far as I could discover. Elsie was quite earnest to learn where I was going and what my business was, but I thought it not best to enlighten them. They said P.G. and wife were gone on to Washington, but they could not tell on what business nor where they could be found. You will see I have subscribed and paid for the Chronicle and had better see to it your number is stopped when your year is up.

Father.

Dear Daughter,

You have no idea how I was startled and pleased last night when Ella held you up before me and this morning when I left I begged it of her mother as Ella was not yet up. I suppose you will not wonder when I tell you that the tears came in my eyes and my voice failed almost, but now I feel more courageous. You must keep Ma's courage up and remember we are all in His keeping. I think of you both almost all of the time. I must close as it is about time to start. Kiss little Dear for me. May our kind and heavenly father keep us all and if possible bring us together once more. Yours in love and affection,

John D. Bancroft.

P.S. They have just given me $25 to defray my expenses for which I gave my debit.

Dear Wife,

If you were as smart and as capable of endurance as you were a few years ago and we had the means to build, buy or hire a house we could use as a dwelling and at the same time accomodate 50 or 100 scholars, how glad I should be to have you here with me. What a field. Children enough to instruct in day school and youth and adults in Sabbath school and no difficulty to keep up prayer and conference meetings. Many appear to be warm and hearty Christians. O! What a field for doing good. They need to be taught almost everything, sewing and all kinds of work. To be neat and tidy, although they cannot expect to be very great sample of neatness in their very inconvenient and crowded situations. A large family in one small room and I presume more at night when they return from work and every room in the house in like manner. Every available shanty, nook and corner thus crowded. Abundance of mud and filth outside so that you may well judge there was squalor inside. Much of this might be ameliorated did the whites rightly consider their duty and responsibility. But instead of that the majority either care nothing about it or wish it to go on, so as to compel them to go back to bondage or by their destruction to say "we told you so." The blacks are better off in bondage. They can't take care of themselves.

I wrote so much before receiving your kind affectionate and cheering letters and as soon as I could get my eyes clear anough from tears sit down to the glad task of answering them.

I felt truly as if I was away off in a weary land. Rain drizzling constantly. Just returned to my hotel from the post office in the Fort. No letters, no papers, no intelligence from brother Lockwood. Only the rumor of yesterday confirmed that he was debarred from using the

mess house as previous for meeting and the Negroes understood that I was also prohibited. Had spent a part of the morning in teaching a few little boys their alphabet, and one or two made some progress in two lettering syllables. Conversed with older ones on religion and on the importance of acquiring the ability to read. But am obliged to use much circumspection as the slave holders are very bitter. One gentleman in the bar room last night said that "he should be glad to see the damned abolitionists marched out and shot." I paid no attention so he lost his ammunition. Last night a young man was put in my room to lodge, there being a cot on a lounge beside my bed, as a spy I conjecture for officers have been with me previous nights. Said he was a slave holder on the eastern shore. Said his slaves shed tears when he parted from them. You have heard that sort of stuff. Professed great love for his slaves. But when I asked him if he taught them to read, "Oh, no, that would be a damage to them." He a professor of religion! Kneeled down by his chair both night and morning as if in a long prayer. I did not perceive any agony in it. I read him some portions of scripture and said I could not understand how the ability to read God's Word could be an injury to a human being. I asked him what he would do to a person who would attempt to teach the blacks. He said he should take care of them. You can judge what kind of care that would be. I have met him since in the bar room. Did not see me till I spoke to him. It was with apparent reluctance he would converse. When he did it was with a peculiar smile and superstitious air as if something was wrong. But enough of such things.

I believe I wrote you something of the lady I met who had rather bury her children than have them educated by one who would condescend to teach blacks.

I wish I could give you a good delineation of a prayer and conference meeting. Although they made some

mistakes in the use or pronunciation of words, still their sentiments were very correct and good. Such expressions of faith in Christ, of the necessity of the heart, work, humility, such exhortations to come to the Saviour by repentance and faith, the necessity, the danger of delay, such pertinent illustrations I was not expecting.

I must refer to our own matters. My health is as good as it was at home. And I think would be better if I could have diet and so forth as regular. But to sit down to the table with the ever present coffee and bread is to say the least rather awkward for me. When I have occasionally found cucumbers and pickles on the table, quite a relief. But never mind my little annoyances, I expect greater before I get through. And I find Paul's writing very refreshing. They are my principal reading. How good the Lord is in giving us His blessed book. But to your letter. It could not have come more opportune and I thank you for its kind and tender expressions. And although I know our children would be all to you that we could desire, for they ever have been, still the assurance is very comforting, realizing as I do more than ever such blessings are from the Lord. Caty's expression "only he did not say anything" started the tears afresh.

When I turned the paper to interline I thought I had about got through, but here I am going the ground all over again. But my turn is not here so not my paper is my excuse for thus crowding. Give my best regards to all. You certainly seem nearer and dearer to me than ever. But stop, perhaps I am suffering my feelings to carry me too far. Let Christ be the great center of our affections and other things in subordination. Your affectionate though imperfect husband,

John D. Bancroft.

Brooklyn
January 27, 1862

Dear Katy,

Your father has given me permission to write a few lines and put in his letter and so save postage which lately has become quite an expense to me, and which I try to reduce as much as possible. I have not much to write about at present but must write something when I have so good an opportunity. I am not very well at present. Have not been able to attend school since a week ago. Am in hopes I shall go again next week. I am afraid by staying out I have lost my promotion. I was to have been promoted the next day. I was in the highest section in school. My name was at the head of the list and had just finished my examination and got through finely. I hope I shall get into the first class soon.

Your father intends leaving here tomorrow. We have had a very pleasant visit with him. My Sabbath school teacher, Mrs. Waters, has called upon me this evening. I wish you could see her. I love her already. I guess you forgot to put in that piece of Mary's dress. Tell Marian that I am glad she has got a letter commenced and I shall soon expect it along. I received a Bible from the superintendant of the Sunday school for reading the Bible through. There were twenty besides myself who received Bibles. There were four in my class.

Ella Patrick

February 3, 1862

To Caty,

I hope you will tell the sewing society about the bright eyed little darkies down here. How ignorant and destitute they are. How much good a little will do for them. Why only think of a school taught in an upper chamber 7 by 9, if as big, with but one window and that without any sash or glass in it, and when cold and rain beat in nothing but a few strips of boards to shut it out and then the door into the other room must be opened and the boards in another window taken out and the little light let in from the other direction and so shift from one to the other according to the shifts of the wind or state of the weather. O! How I long to be rich enough to do something better for them. But we mean to try to get some class if possible somehow. If every little child in the free states old enough to go to the grocery and buy a stick of candy could give one cent every week what an amount of good it would do.

Your doting father,
John D. Bancroft.

Dear Son,

I do not know that I ever sat down to write a letter to you with more gratitude to God for the "inestimable" blessing than at present. You can form but a faint idea of the satisfaction I enjoy at the recent content of your letters. But as I have spent so much time writing to mother and Katy and as my fire is about out and only two rather poor sticks with which to recruit it, and it is growing dark. When I go to the bar to obtain more candle the landlord cuts me off a piece. I shall have to be short. I thank you for your encouraging words. I do hope I am in the place he wants me and although the way appears to be shut up for a school still my presence is opportune as it will give additional weight to the mission in the eyes of the powers that be. They will see into the necessity of the investigation into the abuses of the under strappers and right the wrongs of the poor oppressed ones, as they evidently defraud them of their hard earned wages, as you will soon learn. I wish I could tell you more of the particulars. Instead of paying them from $6 to $8 they do not get as good as 12¢, many of them besides being obliged to work extra time, say a good part of two nights a week and some of the time Sundays and rotate of the brick diminished in the regular working hours, with a plenty of abuse besides. Such as pounding and kicking about and to work in rags that do not always cover the nakedness. But I hope to ere long give you more particulars. One poor fellow was knocked down with a spade and was disabled in the hospital.

Our pecuniary affairs I must leave all to you. I feel very contented in trusting them to you. Give my best regards to your wife. I do feel so grateful I can leave my dear wife and daughter in the care and keeping of those I can trust so confidently. Kiss. Love from me to Clora.

Love, J. D. Bancroft.

Fortress Monroe, Virginia,
Feb. 3, 1862

Messrs. Whipple and Joslyn, Secs.

Dear Brethren,

You request me to write soon but I still delay because I do not know what to write. ~~B. S. (B.L.?)~~ S. Lockwood has told you of my arrival and perhaps that is all that is necessary. As he knows and comprehends more about the present difficulty I think not best for me to attempt an explanation. I felt very bad about my delay at Baltimore. I thought I was losing precious time. But I am not much better off here. I visited one school with Brother S. Lockwood on Friday. Saw and became some acquainted with quite a number small and great, of those for whom I am anxious to labor so that I am better prepared should the door be open. Did not see Brother Lockwood Saturday or Sunday. Cannot tell consequently whether I have found a place for me to board or teach. Attended meeting with the colored people yesterday and was pleased with the knowledge and spirit they manifested. Although the present prospect is rather forbidding. I still feel more of hope than at first as I think I misapprehended the object of the commission. The General spoke of. I first supposed it was to attend to Brother Lockwood particularly. On further reflection I apprehend it is to investigate the treatment, the contrabands have received and to devise a more systematic mode of management, especially as the Gen. told me to attend to my business of teaching. So although he would not be troubled with our matters he gave us liberty to teach. I do not know as we ought to ask more. My health is better. I do not cough near as much as when I came. (tbc)

J. D. B.

Feb. 10, 1862

Dear Brother, 1210

As I am not yet teaching I feel it is obligatory on me to communicate with you. I have deferred it thus far as Bro. Lockwood said he would keep you advised as to the position of this here - after writing the above on the 3rd. Bro. Lockwood came to me at the Hygeia Hotel where I had been staying at his direction, quietly until he could see what could be done. On the fourth was sick all day with a headache.

Cont. on page 419

1210

From the Rooms of the
American Missionary Society
Jan. 28, 1862

John D. Bancroft, M. D.
Hygeia Hotel,
Fortress Monroe,
Appointment by Board.

This is to certify that J. D. Bancroft, Esq. has been appointed by this Association, a teacher to be employed teaching school at or near Fortress Monroe, Virginia, among the colored people. And in communicating that knowledge to young and old which will conduce to their temporal and spiritual good and promote their usefulness in later life.

George Whipple and S. S. Joslyn,
Sec. American Missionary Assoc.
Jan. 28, 1862

J. D. Bancroft, Esq.
Presents,

Dear Sir,
On reaching Baltimore you will in the afternoon go on board the steamer bound for Fortress Monroe from the R. R. depot there are Omnibuses, which run to the boats. The distance is very considerable. I should think 1½ miles.

You will be asked on board the boat your business at the fort. You can say simply, "I have business with Gen. Wool", and all will be right. You will find the deputy of the Provost Marshall of Fortress Monroe on board. Who on your arrival will show you to the office of the Provost Marshall where you will as all others do take the oath as a loyal citizen under the Constitution of the United States. The Provost will then give you a pass. You can ask him to give you one which will give you access inside the Fortress. And to Camp Hamilton. As you will need to go to the Seminary to see Mr. Lockwood, as well as in the fort to see Gen. Wool. Please write soon. May the Saviour favor in all your labors and bless you in the salvation of some souls as well as communicating knowledge of letters.

Your affectionate brother,
S. S. Joslyn
Jocelyn

In the afternoon, Bro. Lockwood came, went with him to the Seminary, paid $ 8.00 for board at the Hotel. Fifth, spent the day taking the census under Bro. Lockwood's direction. Sixth Rainey assist some in preparing a report. Seventh - continued taking census, so you see I have not accomplished much. So I refer the matter to you whether I should stay here any longer. If in your judgement you think best to recall me I shall not complain. I see no prospect of my being any use to you in the field.

Yours,
J. D. B.

Note:(This is a first draft which he then copied and sent.)

Seminary in Camp Hamilton,
Near Fortress Monroe in
Virginia, Febr. 5, 1862.

W. O. Bancroft,
Earlville, Madison co., New York.

Yesterday came over here from the ----------
at the fort with Bro. Lockwood to the Seminary,
a four story building designed for ladies now used
as the quarters of Captain Burleigh, the surgeon
of the regiment. A Doctor Brown also a General here.
It is a queer building although handsomely situated,
fronting the bay. With the fortress in sight at
the left. Camp Hamilton partially to the left and
rear with what remains of Hampton in the background,
in sight. The camp is large and the dead level of
its white tents and occasional wooden shantys, some
covered with shingles and some with canvas. The
dwelling and barns are some of them used by the men
and officers and some by the contraband. In those
used by the blacks, every room has a separate family.
Sometimes more than one family occupy one small room.

This has been a very fine day and I have been
pretty busy taking a census of the contraband, for
the commission appointed by the General Wool and in
the investigation came across some interesting items.
I will give you a few of one case.Mariah Barber,
60 years of age, formerly a servant of Colonel Wash-
ington, has worked in the fort 30 years, for the
officers and their families until too old for a
body or house servant, then did washing and so
forth for them. Never received any pay from the
government. Left the fort because as she became too
old for a house servant they wished her to stay
in the quarters which did not suit her, and work
for them washing and so forth. Resided in the house
of Judge Clopton three years, paid five dollars a
month for rent, till the war broke out. Since
which Mrs. Clopton said she might keep her till the
trouble was over or till she heard further from her.
Support herself and boy by washing for the officers
and men. They pay honorably, Mariah says that she
paid Colonel Washington through his agent, Col. Agee
(now in the rebel service) $500.00 for her body as
she termed it. Altho the Colonel did not pay but
three hundred for her, as he was restricted from
taking her down South or any way disposing of her
against her wish, but when she had thus paid for her
freedom, the Colonel told her she could not have any
unless she left the state, so she had nothing to
show for her money except her receipt from Colonel
Washington. Who she said was blown away in a vessel
at sea. And these receipts were finally destroyed

by a fire consuming the house where she resided, where she lost other property by the conflagration. This money she says she sent to the Coln. as she acquired it forty or fifty dollars at a time. The officers of the fort were anxious to have her stay but she preferred to leave for she did not like the place where she would be obliged to live. And the wages, so much a month, as she would rather work by the piece.

Comments, What a beautiful system slavery must be. A smart active mulatto will be petted and flattered while young, but kept in ignorance, and all get out of her that can be and then when old age has come upon her, turned off with no provision for self or dependents. Instead of the money she earned by industry, and saved by economy, being a fund for her comfort a selfish miserable fellow called a Colonel flatters herself along to deny herself and her friends, even the comforts of life, to obtain her earning. A pretty good investment, $500. for three hundred dollars he paid for her.

I here met a fellow who calls himself Alfred Upshall, says he was body servant to Judge Upshall one of the secretary of the cabinet of John Tyler. You remember who was killed by the bursting of the big gun on the Princeton, you will remember more about it than I do. When his master's estate was settled he was about to be sold when his friends advance the money for him and gave him an opportunity to obtain his freedom, says he is now supporting an old black man (free) who is infirm from age and rheumatism. Has been unwell himself. So you see the blacks can take care of themselves and their infirm friends. Give them a chance.

This is a fine morning. All complain of the mud.

Friday, Febr. 6, 1862, Spent the day taking census of the contraband. Some stated they had all their clothing, except what they had on, and their bedding burned when Hampton was burned by the secessionists so that they had suffered from the cold.

On parade in the Indiana regiment, they fired across the bay at the grass on the other side. The Major told me that they cut up the grass every time so that he knew that if he could meet an enemy (enfield rifle) with smooth bores he could cut them to pieces before they could hurt him. It is grand to

see such large bodies of horse and foot exercise, were it not associated with the horrors of war, blood, and carnage. I was very much fatigued when I arrived at the Seminary and after I got home in my great coat, with a garment over or around my feet, it was some time getting comfortable in the cold. It is not very pleasant to shave with cold water in a cold room. When I came down to the sitting room was introduced to Elder Osgood, from New York, who was sent here by the Baptist to look after the Baptist contraband.

February 9, Sunday, attended meeting near the Tyler House. Elder Osgood pretended to preach and quite an excited discussion took place after the sermon about the operation of mission and school and treatment of the colored people. Elder Osgood disapproves of the whole course pursued. Says the colored brethren and sisters must not be called "this gentleman" or "this lady". We must not eat at the same table with them, say they will soon turn around and despise and abuse Bro. Lockwood and all who has treated them. Lockwood is determined to get them to be open communion and he probably will effect it. I fear I am in bad odor with him and as it is all in his hands here Elder Osgood having managed the thing very indiscreetly you must not be surprised if I return home soon, as I have not yet been to find a place where I could teach or a proper place to board. Am in a great strait to know what to do. I feel very anxious to accomplish some of the objects for which I came but I see no prospect. I propose I should take a few books and go to Newport News and try what I can do there. I understand his object is to get me away from the Baptist Brethren here. As I told him I could not commune with them on these terms.

Febr. 11, 1862, Last night was called up to the Fort to see the General. Got there at the hour in company with a Doctor Linston from New York, who is an applicant to the post of Hospital Surgeon to the contraband but the General came out into his anteroom. Excusing hemself from an interview as Gov. H. Fish and BishopAmes and appoint this evening for an interview.

This is a very pleasant morning.

This morning visited a school taught by a young theological student from Brooklyn, a member of Doct. Cheevers church. If you can concieve of a school of 45 little blacks, male and female in all the different shades and habiliments seated in the center of a room occupied by blacks, a stove with cooking going on, four high post bedsteads in the room, a cot with a sick person on it, a wash tub, another stove near the door made of a barrel sawed

in two, the door and elegant bay window opening up on a beautiful view of Hampton Roads with its fleet of steamers, war vessels, merchant men, fishing smacks, etc. The door opens by running up instead of swinging on hinges. Persons going in and out during the whole exercises which consisted of singing, short prayer, then reading in class. First class read a short lesson in words of 2 syllables. Then a few verses in Matthew by each one of the class. When I was called out to go on an errand of mercy to see that an old gentleman who is teaching a school in the basement of the Tyler House was more comfortable. I meant to have mentioned that the Jams in the above rooms were marble. As are these in the Tyler House, where the cooking is done for Bro. Hardcastle. I am in great doubt as to what will be the result of this whole matter, as well as my own action in it. Pray for me. I find I am so unfortunate as to be constantly giving offense. I cannot be abolition enough (or I do not know what to call it). It is now 2:30 and there is some signs of dinner.

Febr. 12, Last night I made up my mind to start for home this afternoon, by the Baltimore boat as Brother Lockwood said we could not work together (he fearing my influence would be against him on the communion question having determined to bring the church over to open communion.) But today he thinks better of it and I am to have the privilege of standing back if they should have a so-called communion without its being construed as an offense. So this pm we go again to the General to see if we can get a place and the privilege of keeping a school.

Your unworthy but loving father,

J. D. Bancroft

Febr 13. Just left the General's, oftained permission to teach a primary school and shall begin as soon as I can make the arrangements for room and board, etc. This is a warm and beautiful day, like summer rather than spring or winter. I feel more hopeful. Yours, etc., etc., J. D. B.
Oh, how it would make me happy to see some of you.

1243

422

Harpursville, N.Y.
Febr. 7, 1862

John D. Bancroft,
Fortress Monroe, Virginia,

My dear Father,

I have been wanting to write you a good while but have been up to Nineveh since Sunday and have not had a very good chance. You see by the date I have not kept my promise of writing every day but I will refer to my diary. I guess I can tell you the most that has happened.
Wed. Jan. 29, We carried Marian and Libby to singing school.
Thursday - pleasant. Jennie wanted to come home with us. I did not know she loved us so well as since you went away. It seems as though she thought as much of us as of her own parents. The sewing society was here but only a few here.
Friday - We got on a quilt for me. Mrs. Wright came in and sat with us a while. To prayer meeting. Elder Wright prays for you every meeting.
Sat. Feb. 1 - Finished my quilt.
Sunday - went up to Nineveh. Elder Wright preached. In the evening I went to hear Mr. Hoyt. He is having a series of revival meetings there.
Monday - Storms.
Tuesday - we went over to Mrs. Mason's. We drawed Jennie in a big basket for her to ride in. She enjoyed it. They had two rag dolls about as big as she is. And she would get in the rocking chair with one on each arm. She calls grandma Ammi! And can say apple pie. And Aunt Katie.
Wednesday - I took Jennie out for a ride again.
Thursday was donation. Had oyster supper, a very nice donation. $50 in money and other things. Good many there. They came over and got our big cook stove and both of our tables. So we ate on a board this morning. We got a letter from Helen Birdsall. Saying that Uncle Nathan was not expected to live. I guess ma and brother will go up there tomorrow. I have just received my Febr. Magazine. I did not get the prize but I got a portrait of Aunt Sue (editor) for paying up. She looks as though she could make puzzles but is very pleasant. Brother is down here to take us to Nineveh to start from there in the morning. I am going to stay with Clora. I will finish up there. Evening, I am now at Nineveh and Jennie is calling first Katy and then Momma. Ma has gone to meeting. I have commenced a holder to use around the stove. It is pieced in the form of a star on the outside. Blue and yellow lined with red. It is going to be pretty. The bell is ringing for the sermon now. You see they come together for prayer, while those who wish might go to Mr. Hoyt's to converse, and at seven a sermon.

423 1/2

Clora has got a beautiful rose in blossom

My dearest Father,

I thought I must sit down to twll you that your excellent letter reached us this morning. It was a very welcome visitor as your vots usually are. But more especially to me. Jennie has gone to sleep. Brother and Ma have started for Otego, started about noon.
Evening - I thought I would sit down and write a few lines before I go to bed. I asked Jennie if she would kiss me for grandpa. And she stuck up her bill and gave me a very nice kiss indeed. She has got a half dozen spools and she piles them one on top of the other, higher than you would think she could. It has been a very pleasant day for Ma and Brother to go to Otego. Jennie can say 'most anything.

Monday - I did not have a chance to write yesterday. I slept with Clora and Jennie. We did not go up very early. I practiced in an hour in the forenoon. In the afternoon Florence Marshall came to spend the day till evening meeting.Clora and I went and took Jennie. Clora thought it the best meeting she had attended. Mrs. Hoyt preached. There were a good many spoke. Ma is waiting and I must hurry. Brother and mamma got home at two o'clock. Jennie very glad to see them. We have got a kitten for Jennie.

Have you had to use your sewing materials yet. If not you have not found a picture I put in your sewing box. I would like it if next time you write, you would give the exact post office address, where your letters should be sent. We have been some puzzled to know the direction of Fortress Monroe. Must close.

I like to write to you very much. It seems different from writing anybody else. Write often and long.

I was telling me we should get up a box of eatables and send on to you. I think I should like to be there, anywhere with you. With much love I remain
Your daughter,
Katie

P. S. Learning to play Auld Lang Syne.
Katie.

Nineveh, Monday
February 10, 1862

Dear Husband,

Clora has gone to meeting as I chose to remain at home in order to answer your truly acceptable favor which should have been done sooner had I not been summoned to the dying bed of my brother Nathan. We started soon after the mail came Saturday (which brought yours of the third instant) and arrived there about sunset. Found brother very sick but still able to converse some. He took me by the hand and said "You have come to see me once more, when I shall soon pass away." I then said "Do you feel ready to go?" "O! Yes, waiting, waiting, my mind is very clear." He could say but few words at a time. Had hiccups all day. And such a difficulty about swallowing that he dreaded to take anything into his mouth, though suffering intensely from thirst. He was also raising considerable sliming, stringy stuff which he got out of his mouth with difficulty. His tongue looked like a piece of raw beef, only redder. He said he thought he should not live till morning. But the later part of the night he could swallow some better and drank water and some porridge. About 6 in the morning he had a chill and severe pain in his back and limbs which lasted about half an hour after which he said he had no more pain, only weary. When I told him this morning I must leave, he said he hoped we should meet in a better world where we should find rest, then pressed my hand and said farewell. The rest of our friends in usual health. We did not see brother William as he had a call to preach at Gilbertsville, Elder E. being absent. Nilla has another daughter, two weeks old, all smart. Samuel has concluded that his father needs him so much that he will stay with him this year so we shall not have his company -----.

Harpursville, Tuesday. When Oscar came to town meeting this morning we all came to town with him. Found

a letter from Leonard. He says they are all in usual health now. Eliza's little Carrie died December 12 of diphtheria. Was buried on Friday. On Saturday Eliza became the mother of another little daughter. On Monday Dora was attacked by diphtheria but recovered. William is working in a saw mill, doing well. Mother is living with Leonard, or as he expresses it "with Arminda and probably will as long as she lives." He says "we have bargained for a place in South Brookfield, where we expect to move in the spring. Mother will go with us." They received a letter from Henry in December. They were well and had proposed visiting their friends in this state this winter, but the hard times would prevent.

And now in regard to your own situation and prospects. I must say I feel a good deal disappointed as from what I had read in the American Missionary and other papers. I was led to conclude that a door of usefulness stood wide open. That you would have nothing to do but step in and labor. The idea of your being watched as an abolitionist is not very pleasant. And I can only pray that you may be so deeply embued with the spirit of our master and possess so much of that wisdom which if profitable to direct as to give no occasion even to enemies to speak reproachfully. I desire that you may ever maintain the character of an American citizen, not a partisan. And I still have confidence that we are agreed on that. Or as Peter says "I do not tell you these things because you do not know them, because you do, etc."

Clora and Katy have gone over to visit Mrs. Brown but I prefer to stay here alone and write to you. And yet I feel as though I did not know what to write. O! That I had some cheering news, but even the great revival meeting at Nineveh where the house was thronged from night to night fails to supply the material. Is it so that there has been

such progress in the world that sinners can be born into the Kingdom without any view of the exceeding sinfulness of sin? Any sorrow for having committed it, nor any love for a dying risen Savior? My soul is pained within me and I can only cry, O! Lord, how long, how long?"

Hamilton Pearce was found dead in his bed yesterday morning, funeral to be attended at our meeting house tomorrow at one o'clock. I hope you will be as careful of yourself as your circumstances will admit. Strive against all undue excitement and continue to put your trust in the omnipotent arm and I will still hope and pray that he will carry you safely through and restore you to us yet again. Though as I think, as I often do, of your sudden attacks of illness I tremble lest you should need my supporting arm, as weak as it is, but will not allow myself to dwell on this. But try to commend you to the care of him who careth for us, and remain as ever your affectionate wife,

Laura B. Bancroft.

P.S. Elder Wright wished to be remembered to you and that you should write him. Frederick Martin's wife has been sick with putrid sore throat. Is getting better.

Laura.

1803 Mason City, Ill
Febr 10, 1862 (3)

Dear Sister Clora,

I am sorry to hear that you are sick. May it not be unto death but for the glory of God. To depart and be with Christ is far better but to abide in the flesh seems to be more necessary for your dear ones. Yet God knows what is best for them and you. When in good health and doing all you can for your family, you are only Gods instrument to take care of them and if you should be called away he can use other instrumentalities just as well. In trying to think of you this morning my mind is in doubt and I fear this may never reach you on earth.

Zada and Betsey have written concerning your illness and sister Marshall has written Sister Pope about it, from whom I heard it first. When I was in Peoria. When we are literally as weak as a babe we can get a better idea of our entrre dependance and lean more sweetly on Jesus than at most other times. We then just live in Jesus arms and nestle to his bosom. He is all in all to us then, for we are shut up to him alone. My dear Fora said,"My Jesus has never forsaken me and I dont think he will do it now" so she fell asleep, as calmly as to a nights repose. Like flowers at set of sun. We are all in usual health except I have a bad cold. My wife and Lilla are away on a visit to Knoxville, Ill. Harmony , the youngest sister and the only one is married and starts today for Omaha and they would not meet in a long time if ever unless she went to "K?" now, so they started not withstanding the excessive cold. They have been gone more than a week and will be home in one week more if they are prospered.

The new baptist meeting house was opened for e devine service two weeks ago. It is a plain neat structure and cost $4,000. We have subscription enough to make this up except two hundred dollrs We raised $800 on the day of dedication. Dr. D. Read of Shurtleff College assisted us. Mason City is a splendid town but the schools are of no account and my children are growing up in ignorance. A tax has been levied to build a new school house, and then and there after things will be better in respect to school here.

Our new railroad is doing a heavy busniess and we are broght into communication by rail and telegraph with the rest of the world.

Bestey write that the cars run to Harpursville, strange is it not? What next? I am glad for Harpursville and hope the church will wake up and grow and keep on growing. Enterprising men in these days forsake a dead and buried town an

without enterprising men a church cannot flourish. I mean men who attempt great things for God. An expect great things from God. There are prospered Christians whos enterprise all finds a selfish channel and are a curse to any church.

Since I came here I have divided my time with other places.

I have now tendered my resignation to take effect April 1 so they can get a preacher all the time. As their altered circumstances now demand. Who their next preacher will be I cannot tell. If they call me I expect to obey the call.

There is much destitution all around us. (was this panic or bad harvest)

If I were a diocesia bishop with six good preachers I could assign them places with which I am personally acquainted. Now commending you to God and his merciful grace, I must say farewell, my family join in love, Pray for us and remember us to enquiring friends. Good bye, your afectionate brother in the flesh and in the Lord,

Sanford Martin.

1243 (3)

Febr. 12, 1862

Dear Father,

I would like to write a good deal to you but have not the time now. When the Board of Town Auditors met I was appointed Town Clerk and have held the office one week and two days labor. The Republican ticket all elected except Town Clerk. Charles Richards elected by one majority over Sam Brown. R. G. Harper, Sup. 160 vote majority over Alvin Holcomb. Rest of majorities 150 and over. John Martin Justive over Osborn Bumps brother. I hope you will not stay and jeopardize your health. Unless the way for usefulness is providentially opened. Since sitting by Uncle Nathan and witnesses the anxious care of his family, I have thought more than ever how it would be with you should you ever again be stricken down with disease among as unsympathizing people around you as you find them.

Write often, without waiting for us. We will write as often as possible.

Yours affectionately,

William O. Bancroft.

Jan. 19, 1863 page 412

Fortress Monroe
Tyler House, Ex-President's Home
Wednesday, February, 1862

William O. Bancroft
Nineveh, Broome Co.

My Dear Wife,

How agreeable it would be to just pop into your room tonight and find you all well and happy. But seeing that cannot be, how very cheering it would be to sit down as I am alone and read a fresh letter from some of you. But I am denied even that. But I am not much cast down for I feel a consciousness of, in some small degree, at least of being in the way of my duty. I am now teaching school and boarding in the Tyler House. School in the basement and board with a mulatto family who live in the rooms used by the ex-president as a gentleman's sitting room, as every room is occupied by a separate family of contraband or more. Attended a meeting tonight. All Negroes or mixed and enjoyed it well. Some powerful and scriptural prayers and exhortations. One actually a powerful sermon. After meeting the leader told me that mine, as I rehearsed it as I stated to you in my previous letter, was the first scriptural experience he had ever heard from a white man. You could, or rather, no one could make these Christians believe that regeneration is a mere change of purpose or that it commenced with a volition of the mind. They believe the Holy Spirit begins the good work by implanting a new principle in the heart. Although their pronunciation is broken and their articulation imperfect, their ideas just and their figures of speech forcible, their language strong and their reasoning comes home to the heart and conscience, their knowledge of scripture is wonderful.

My health is somewhat better. It is bedtime, so goodnight.

Your husband.

March 1, 1862

Dear Katy,

Pa has just been showing your picture to Deacon Peter Hurburt, an old man who has long stood as a teacher in the colored church in Hampton of nearly one thousand members. And he cried out "That is beautiful. O! I should like to have that." So I had to tell him where I got it to explain why I could not give it to him. But you can well realize how it set my heart yearning to see the original. But I enjoy myself better nowadays than I have since I have been here, as I am busily engaged in the work for which I came here. Teaching the young and taking an active part in the religious meetings etc.

This is a delightful spring morning. There is some ice in puddles and the north wind is colder. No snow or ice on the ground. And the sun shines warm and pleasant and I am anticipating going to the Fort and there finding two or three letters waiting for me, which I look forward to with pleasure. Although mingled with fear as I expect to learn some sad news, as this is a world of sorrow and sadness, which must ever be the case where sin reigns. But I want to fix my hopes and thoughts on a future state where there is no sin, and of course no sorrow. Kiss baby for me. Goodbye.

Your Father.

Dear Son,

Please write me how the church gets along. I would like to write to the Elder but I am ashamed to on account of my spelling etc. But brother Peter Hurburt is waiting for me.

Your Father.

P.M. At the Seminary again, disappointed in not finding any letters for me. Well it's a disappointment but I find a gentleman here, an agent for the Society under which I am

acting and he lays heavy and grievous charges against the Baptists. But perhaps you are as well informed on this subject as I am, as I find I am watched and kept in the dark as much as possible while this gentleman and Missionary Lockwood are consulting. I am twice sent out to wait on the commissary department to distribute clothing etc. to the contraband, although brother Hyde was sitting by who generally attended to it. Well God in mercy bless you all, Amen. I will try to be circumspect and not to hurt if I cannot do much good. I can assure there are some spiritual Bible Christians here who cannot be long beguiled about the truth. Father.

(The North accepted the Negroes as human beings with the same inalienable rights as the white. The South insisted that they were sub-human animals to be bought and sold, worked and bred like other farm animals and having no rights.

Contraband in war is property that may be seized and does not need to be returned. If the Negroes were identified as captives, the North would be required to return them in an exchange of prisoners, preserving slavery. Although it was repugnant to the North to treat them as property, it was politically and legally practical to adopt the words of the South. Then, in any peace settlement, regardless of the outcome of the conflict, the blacks would not need to be returned to the South. So, they were called contraband, like horses and cattle. A bit of Yankee pragmatism! PMB)

October 1, 1862

Meadow Dale Concert Band

October 1, at Harpursville

This is to benefit the American Literary Association by whom they are employed. Sacred, comic and sentimental songs:

Tonight We Greet You
Sequel to Grandfather's Clock
Shadows on the Floor
Orphan Girl
Cabin in the Woods
Mack McCorkity
Sword of Bunker Hill
Instrumental
Did Not Old Pharo Get Lost
Moses Smote the Water
Darwin's Joke
Fire Bells
Poor Old Joe
Johnnie Morgan
Nancy Lee
Dar Union Band
Sensitive Old Maid
Money After All
Der Resurrection

Dec. 31, 1862

Buffalo, N.Y.

Dear Uncle,

Thinking that perhaps you would like to hear from me I take my pen this evening to write you a few lines. Gilbert and I are here attending the Medical College. We came here about the first of November. The course is now about half through. I think the college is all,it claimed to be. I enjoy myself very well here. I have been pretty

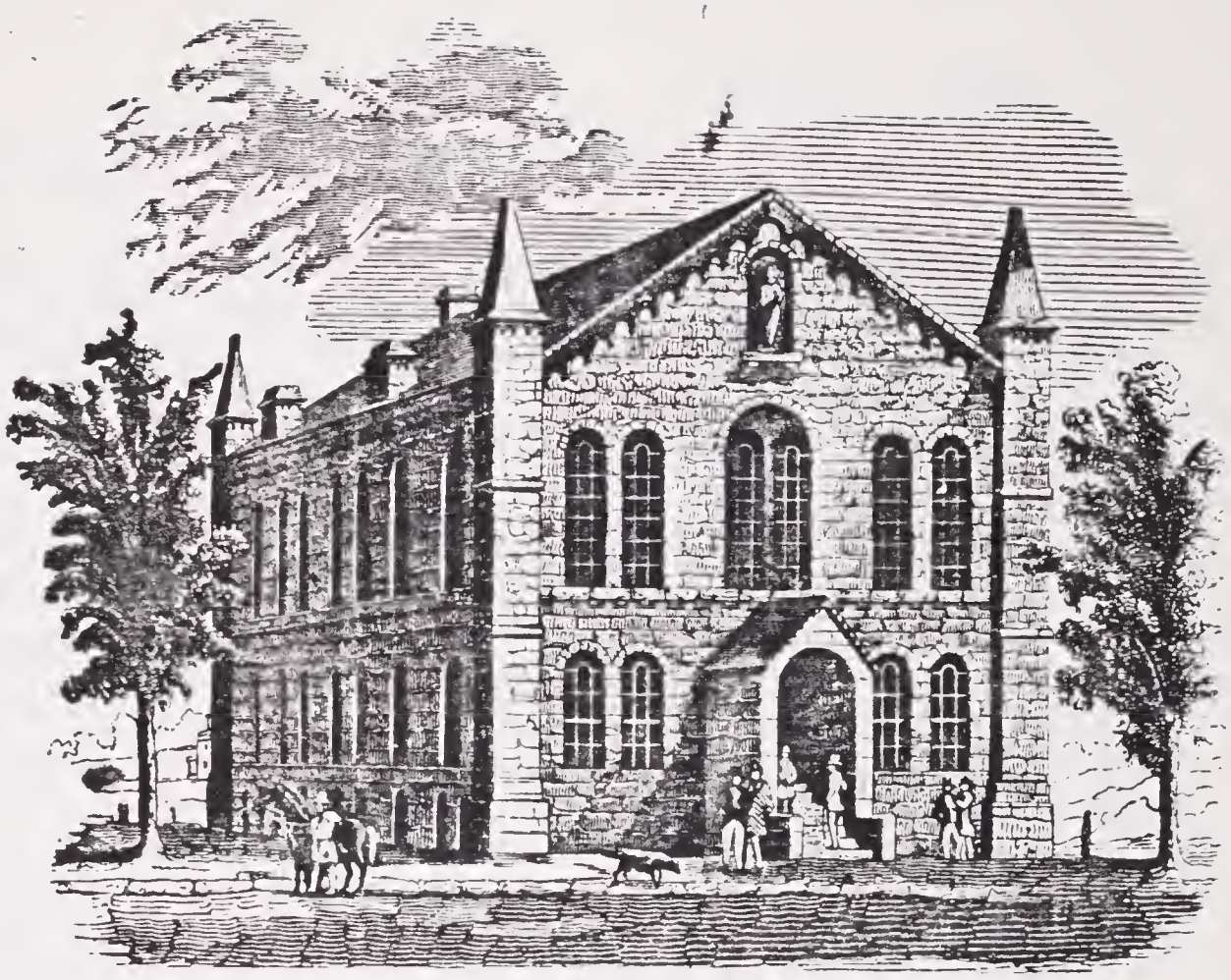
(there is a missing page PMB

Samuel Birdsall

Dr. J.D.Bancroft

(These are sons of William H. Birdsall & Harriet (Gilbert) Birdsall, geneological chart #84 vol I part 1

428b



University of Buffalo—Med. Dep't.

Letter from Samuel Birdsall to John D. Bancroft

Buffalo Dec [illegible]

Dear [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Medical College. [illegible]

[illegible]

March 4, 1862

Dear Husband,

It is two weeks today since we have heard from you. and as we had made our calculations to hear as often as once a week I cannot tell you how anxious we have felt. We all feel a great deal of sympathy for you and if we allowed ourselves to speak our feelings should all say, come home immediately. Still I will try to be patient and leave it to your judgement but my advice isdont stay there to be sick, for it does not seem to me you were accomplishing an amount of good sufficient to make it duty for you to stay there to suffer. Sister and I are enjoying each others society very much. We often speak of you and wish you here to participate in our blessings and privileges. As Katie has told you the Elder moved in here today. I think we have arranged it so it will be comfortable for them. They have the two low chambers, Gilberts room and the long bed room a privilege also in the kitchen and butlery. Tacy and I will improve some of our time in visiting. I have had two pretty hard days for me, getting ready for and assisting the Elders folks. Missed you very much. Oscar and Clora came down today to bring your welcome letter. Oscar went up to Brother Brizzee's and got some potatoes for us and Clora has assisted me. Which leads me again to contrast my situation with yours. Pray that the Lord will bless you in your "work of faith and labor of love". Watch over and preserve you. Elder Wright gave us a good sermon last Sabbath. I had quite recently heard Mr. Hoyt. He skimmed lightly over the surface, showing a few ways in which men neglect. The Edler told us what the salvation was, what we were to be saved from and how saved. Would you like to have him come to serve with you and Lockwood. Elder Merrillhas received a call from Coventry Church. But I understand he has rented his farm to Bro. Ingraham from the Bennettsville area. Have not learned particulars. Oscar has just called to take this. Must close,

Yours truly,
Laura

1243 (4)

Nineveh, March 11, 1862

Dear Father,

I would like to write a long letter to you. I hope you will be able to set the time for your return home in your next. That is, if you return in season for spring work. As I shall want to know what to do. I suppose some of the manures had ought to have been drawed out on this snow. But I have not been able to arrange it and now the snow is leaving fast. We have had the finest run of sleighing I can ever remember. It seems as though theUnion troops have had another sad reverse in your immediate vicinity, two vessels being lost. How do you like the President's message.

Our church matters are not looking any brighter as I can see. Mary Ann says she told Frederick he had better go to meeting and do right himself whether others do right or not. He said he meant to but he has not yet made his appearance. Please write often.

Give us the particulars in reference to yourself for every letter we receive we think of a great deal we would like to know.

Yours affectionately,

William O. Bancroft

"Head Quarters
Near Gainsville,
August 30. 1862.

Two days hard fighting. Our troops victorius. Our troops too much exhausted to rush matters but I shall do so in the morning as soon as Gen. John Porters Corps comes from Memphis. We have lost not less than 8000 men killed and wounded and from appearances of the field the enemy have lost two to our one. He stood on the defensive and every assault was made by ourselves. Our troops behaved spendidly. The battle was faught on the identical field of Bull Run which greatly added to the inthusiasm (his spelling) of our men. The news just reached me from the front that the enemy were retreating toward the mountains . I go forward at ten oclock to see. We have made a great capture but I am not able to form an idea as to what extent.

J. Pope.

Maj. Gen.

This is the Bancroft rejected copy from the original.

HEADQUARTERS OF BATTLE
Near Groveton, Va., August 30, 1862-5 a.m.

Major-General HALLECK, General-in-Chief :

We fought a terrific battle here yesterday with the combined forces of the enemy, which lasted with continuous fury from daylight until dark, by which time the enemy was driven from the field, which we now occupy. Our troops are too much exhausted yet to push matters, but I shall do so in the course of the morning, as soon as Gen. John Porter's corps comes up from Manassas. The enemy is still in our front, but badly used up. We have lost not less than 8,000 men killed and wounded, but from the appearance of the field the enemy lost at least two to one. He stood strictly on the defensive, and every assault was made by ourselves. Our troops behaved splendidly. The battle was fought on the identical field of Bull Run, which greatly increased the enthusiasm of our men. The news just reaches me from the front that the enemy is retreating toward the mountains. I go forward at once to see. We have made great captures, but I am not yet able to form an idea of their extent.

I think you had best send Franklin's, Cox's, and Sturgis' regiments to Centreville, as also forage and subsistence.

I received a note this morning from General Franklin, written by order of General McClellan, saying that wagons and cars would be loaded and sent to Fairfax Station as soon as I would send a cavalry escort to Alexandria to bring them out. Such a request, when Alexandria is full of troops and we fighting the enemy, needs no comment.

Will you have these supplies sent without the least delay to Centreville ?

JNO. POPE
Major-General

OFFICIAL RECORDS
VOLUME XII
P 430 PART III
PAGE 741

March 6th, 1974

Dear Dr.Bancroft:

I'm sorry to be slow in replying to your letter and inquiry of February 23rd but I have been away on a trip and just got back yesterday.

I am not really an expert on the Civil War, or certainly not in all phases of it, but I do have a good library and will attempt to answer your questions to the best of my ability.

Your letter seems to be a draft of a fuller version which appears in the OFFICIAL RECORDS of the WAR OF THE REBELLION. I suspect that these were notes written by an aide at General Pope's direction, and later expanded when directed to General Halleck. It is unlikely that this is in Pope's own hand.

The Second Battle of Bull Run was a disaster in which the boastful Pope was decisively beaten, driven back to the defenses of Washington and replaced, after believing that he had a victory after the first day's fighting.

I do not know whether Sergeant Birdsall's company served under Pope or not. It is not so listed. It may have been part of the forces around Washington. He may have found or obtained the Pope letter and kept it as a souvenir. I can think of no other way in which it may have been in his hands.

As for the letter written by A.S.Patrick- the fact that he was a prisoner in Libby does not mean that he was an officer, nor does the fact that he served as a clerk. There were more than 100,000 Federal prisoners confined in Libby during the war.

Anything else that I might tell you would be pure speculation as is some of the above. I am enclosing a copy of the letter I found that seems identical in some phrases with yours.

If there is anything more that I can do I would be glad to oblige.

I heard your fine talk to the Broome County Historical Society and found it most interesting as I had a great grandfather who was a doctor in Troy, New York in the same period.

Yours sincerely

John C.Clark Jr.

Dec. 31, 1862

Buffalo, N.Y.

Dear Uncle,

Thinking that perhaps you would like to hear from me I take my pen this evening to write you a few lines. Gilbert and I are here attending the Medical College. We came here about the first of November. The course is now about half through. I think the college is all, it claimed to be. I enjoy myself very well here. I have been pretty

(there is a missing page PMB

Samuel Birdsall

Dr. J.D.Bancroft

(These are sons of William H. Birdsall & Harriet (Gilbert) Birdsall, geneological chart #84 vol I part 1

Female Mite Society 1863

Gave 5¢ at each meeting

Bancrofts conspicuous in this organization that frequently met at Dr. Bancrofts

Febr 1, 1863

Statement of assets belonging to and Matters connected with the late firm of Bancroft and Martin

One half of the amount of cazsh received on notes and acct. per B. since March 28 1859	1031.48½	
One half the amount of the interest on the above items to date.	225.52	
One half the amount of notes and accts,settled by B not in cash book	297.31½	
One half the amount of the int on above, etc	10.92½	
		1565.24½
One half the amount of liabilities of Bancroft and Martin	18.90	
One half the amount of int. on above	4.29	
One half the amount of notes and accts. settled by Martin not on the cash book	131.96½	
One half the amount of the int. on above	22.62½	
Amount of cash paid by B & M on bis Share	600.00	
Amount of int. on above	70.74	
Amount of mortgage sold to Martin	563.57	
Amount of int on above	44.91	
Amount of one half of the cash collected by and in the hands of Martin $57.71 less one half liabilities of firm paid by Martin 4.55	53,16	
		1510.18½
		55.06
		66.44
		121.50

Febr 1. 1863

Wm.O.Bancroft Accounts with Bancroft & Martin

Satement of accounts and notes settled or approved
by Bancroft and not on cash book.

1859					
March	21,	to	O. D. Beamans acct	9.87	2.67
May	30	"	C.H.Roberts account	.64	,16
Aug	9	"	W.W, Alexander	6.00	1.46
Dec.	3	"	" "	3.12	.69
1863					
Feb	1	"	H.A.Wakeman	3.24	
1860					
Febr	7	"	F.H.Frazier	1.94	.39
Dec.	19	"	Jas. H. Barnes	4.00	.55
1862					
Jan.	1	"	L. Alexander note	31.99	2.42
Febr	1	"	Betsey Chaffee	3.00	.21
March		"	Tinware of Gus Wells	4.98	1.02
1859					
Febr	11	"	Corn of L. Bunt for J.D.B.	1.88	.37
Mar.		"	Paul Thompson, paid	3.00	.53
Mar.		"	Boots and	3.50	
1858					
Oct 1	1	"	Wm. Scowton note	9.19	2.78
June	1	"	W. Stows acct.	12.66	4.13
1863					
Feb	1	"	Richards	2.34	
"		"	Jas. Frasier	7.30	2.68
Sept		"	Charles Pratt	18.00	1.79
1863					
Feb.	1	"	Elias and Stephen Patrick note	378.25	
"	"	"	L. Northrup Note	90.	95

Febr 1, 1863

Wm. O.Bancroft account of cash paid out
for Bancroft & Martin

after March 28, 1859.

1859					
May 17.	Paid Wm.O.Bancroft, int of Note	$16.41	8.20	2.13	
June 1	" Expense of dis. of mortgage	.25	.12½	.03	
July 5	" Mrs Crawford for coat	5.00	2.50.	.63	
Dec 25	" J. Givens for note	5.71	2.85½	.61	
1869					
March 7	" Store rent	8.44	4.22	.85	
1862					
Jul 21	" Russia Salve receipt	2.00	1.00	.04	
1860					
Oct. 10	" W.E. Martin on his share			100.00	16.14
Nov. 11	" " " ".			100.00	15.54
1862					
Mar 19	" " " "			100.00	20.04
" 4	" " " "			300.00	19.02
A ril 4	" " balance of Tyrrell mortg			563.57	

Washington, Ill.
May 12, 1863

Dear Sister,

Yours of the fourth instant came to hand last evening. We were truly glad you found time to break your long silence. It is a rule with me to reply to all letters as soon as received. So I seize this first opportunity to begin Myra's letter for her. I know that your cares and labors are neither few nor small. But I feel you know where to look for assistance in wisdom and in strength. May you at all times be able to say, with all its fulness of meaning, the Lord is my shepherd. My prospects for doing any good in the world seem poor and my prospect for daily bread still poorer. But I study in what so ever state I am there with to be content. "Sufficient unto the day is the evil there of". Dark clouds over shadow our beloved country but all nature is gay with vernal bloom. The whole realm of nature looks more beautiful to me than ever before. I never saw such a prospect of fruits and grain as surrounds us now. We have had in our yard a perfect wilderness of flowering almonds and now as their glory departs large lilac trees bend under the weight of their blooms. We have neglected our yard so that tulips have to crowd up through thick blue grass sod. And the shrubbery grows in tangled masses. One cause of this has been the uncertainity of our stay and another the multitude of owners some of whom we might displease by pruning, training or changing. The parsonage is not owned by the church yet but by a few bro. who advanced the money to buy it.

Wed. 13, All well. Yesterday it rained all day. This morning is bright and fair. George, Avis and Lilla are off to school. Palmer and Bruce have never attended yet. Altho the former is 8 and the latter is 5. They both know nearly all their letters and read a little the easy lessons of one syllable. I should not be greatly surprised if Clarie will learn to read before either of them. Primus grows a little. He will be twelve weeks Saturday and ways 7 pounds. He has always been a puny thing and his mother is poorly like too. But I think they would both do better if she did not have to work so hard. I want to go to Cleveland to attend the anniversaries next week but don't know how to spare the money. It has been sickly among the children this spring and many have died. Ours have been well for which we ought to be grateful to our heavenly father, by whose preserving mercy we are kept. Palmer is having a dispute with his mother which he is singing

"How beautieous are their feet"

He sings, "How precious" and sticks to it that he is right. Aint he a chip off the old block? He is not convinced by spelling it out in the book but says it is his way in another book which Flora has with her at school so we cannot consult it.

My children have all that amount of firmness that amounts to stubbornness. But too little of that which resists temptation.

Sanford (Samuel Sanford Martin)

Washington, Illinois
July 15, 1863

Dear Sister,

Yours of June 22nd came duly to hand. We are all in usual health. The baby has the whooping cough but is not sick. When would it suit you best for George to come? I don't see how either Avis or Lilla can avail themselves of your kind offer. Flora expects to spend a year with Dr. Weston's family in New York City. He paying all her expenses going to school and going and coming. The doctor is an old friend of mine and it appears to us the hand of the Lord is in it. I am too poor to educate my children as I could wish. Just as this was weighing me down with gloom and dread, within the same week came your generous offer and the doctor's noble proposition.

Well we do not see how we can part with them at once but if you will go and live in Hamilton where you once contemplated I will let you board my children, some of them, all the time, till the youngest is through college. So you see I have great confidence in your matronly gifts and capacity. George has an unyielding stubborn will, being all Martin in that respect and may give you trouble. Yet he has generous impulses and a warm heart and I think tries to do right. I have never revisited Hamilton since my graduation, now nearly twenty years, and should be glad to be at the next commencement. Will try to do so if my children go east about that time. When is commencement at Hamilton? I may not be able to raise the means to travel so far.

I received a letter from Albert since he returned from Colesville, also one from Frederick enclosing the deed to the land sold to Puntys.

I wrote to Zada last week. Mother Palmer had an attack of apoplexy but is better. We have not visited her since this attack.

The war news comes a little better lately. It is very dry through all this region. The wheat, rye, oat and barley crops are good. So is grass. Fruit is promising. Our cherries, currants and gooseberries are all gone. Blackberries are drying up and will not amount to much. I have bought the parsonage in which I live for $500, paying out $400 received from Albert in February.

Write soon. Pray for us.

Samuel Sanford Martin

(Mary Ann (Martin) Blakeslee)

1990 Aug 8. 1862 Sunday 439

Dear Jennie,

I wonder how you are. Think we shall learn after a time that home is the place for you until your health is much better. How wrong it was for you to go right thru such a hot day. But as there is no use in regretting the past we must plan the best way to get you home again. Of course we do not know just how you are but Papa and I both think it need not be a hard trip to Cooperstown. He will write to Mrs, Smith - Baker in the morning. Telling her you may come and will want a place torest. You know she is a real lively pleasant woman and I think she will be glad to see you. Or you can do what I did, go into a hotel and lie down on a cough and rest without expense. There was a cough standing at the end of a long hall where I rested a long time. You will need toget down to Otego Tuesday. So as toget rested there and the train is ealier than the regular mornig one. Papa thinks now he will get the two tickets anyway to let Willie go up to come back with Grandma if he meets you at Otego. So you see you ned not worry anyway. If you are not able to go stay right where you are but I am in a hurry toget you home again. I shall provide a plentiful basket luch forthe occasion as it is to be a basket picnic. If mother wants to stay longer until Carrie can come with her and you can get some other way toget over to Otego or Oneonta, then if you write we will,keep Willie at home. We have said nothing to him about it so it will be no dissapointment to him. Lest I should have too easy a day, as there was no church service, a poor womens lecturers steps were directed here yesterday and she is spending the day with us. Butas she is avery quiet queer little body she has not disturbed our usual routine very much. She has occupied the sitting room most of the day reading. Now she has gone up stairs to hr room. She is to lecture in our church this evening, subject,The True Lady. I will report it.

Clora

Monday Aug 9, Ernest and Willie will go on the excursion train next Wednesday. If they see you at Otego or Oneonta, Willie will get off and you can take his ticket and go on. If you do not discide to go to Cooperstown you can exchange with Willie on the return between 7 &8 pm. Let us hear where you will be.

It is Clarks birthday. He and Willie go o school today. Ernest is getting in the oats with the help fo Mr. Mays. Lodeema Dibble was buried Saturday. Many thanks to the kind friends at Morris for their kiddness to you.

Much love Father (Oscar)

Aug 28, 1863

Office of the vollector of Internal revenue
16 District, N.Y.

Recived of William O. Bancroft three hundred dollars to procure exemption from the draft of July 17, 1863

19 Aug 1863

Certificate of non-liability to be given by the Board of Enrollment

We, the subscribers, composing the Board of enrollment of the twenty sixth District of the State of New York, ----- Hereby certify that William O.Bancroft of Colesville, Broome County N.Y., Having given satisfactory evidence that he is not properly subject to military duty, as required by said act, by reason of having paid $300. is exempt from all liability in military duty for the duration of this draft.

signed by the board.

At this time Oscar suffered from bilateral inguinal hernias which would bar him from active duty. He was the only able bread winner in the family, his father being ill with tuberculosis.

P.M.B.

New York
September 10, 1863

William O. Bancroft
Clora A. Bancroft
Nineveh, N. Y.

My dear Uncle and Aunt,

I arrived at Mr. Weston's at 2 p.m. The train was nearly 3 hours behind time on account of having to wait twice to have bridges mended, and also the track in one place where the freight train had run off. It was very tiresome indeed. But I had a pleasant companion and I know I would have enjoyed but little of my trip if it had not been for her. As it was I enjoyed myself well. After leaving the cars I was rejoiced to meet Doctor W. before going on board the boat. I then took leave of Miss Tice, who had said if I did not meet Dr. W. she would not leave me until I was safe at my journey's end. When I thanked her she said she felt under obligation to do what she could for me, both for my company and for what you had done for her, and requested that when I wrote I should thank you for her for your kind attentions. Dr. W. took me out on deck and told me where the different steamers in sight were from. Pointed out Staten Island, etc. We reached 140 without difficulty, the children were in school. Mrs. W. one of the most affectionate little women in the world received me most cordially, and calls me darling and dear just as she does her husband and children. I started to school this morning, and after being examined by the principal was put in the first class. I was almost in hopes I would be in second with Lucy. She is trying hard and will soon be with me she thinks. I have taken all the studies pursued by my class. Although the arithmetic, algebra and grammar are a great deal more simple than those I studied last. It is a public school and the books are all furnished us.

I intend to study Latin at home. I mailed one letter for Washington this morning. My school is three miles from Doctor Weston. Lucy and I will walk in the morning and ride home in the afternoon. I think I shall like my school and my home here very much. "But though I find true hearts and kind, they're kinder still at home." I have to do almost all my studying out of school hours, and shall not have much time to write letters I am afraid. Must close. Much love to all the friends. I remain your affectionate niece,

Flora.

(Flora Martin, daughter of Rev. S. S. Martin of Illinois. PMB)

New York
October 27, 1863

Dear Brother,

I am anxiously waiting to hear from you. I suppose that the same has been written from home to you as to me. I received a letter dated Friday, Brucie was dying, Primus and Mamma sick. Pa seemed to want me to come home. Dr. Weston thinks it is best now or in all probability I will start tomorrow or sooner. It will depend on the letter I will receive this morning. I thought of telegraphing but Dr. Weston said as you are so far from the line the safest thing was to write. You cannot get this in time to meet me in Depist or Binghamton, but if you are going to come, come quick as you can. If much better news comes this morning I may not go and will let you know immediately. These circumstances need no comment. We must go home, I think. Pa said the Lord reigns in the bitterness of my sorrow. I said, where is the Lord. But better feelings have come over me and I know He reigns and I await the worst.

Your sister in affliction,

Flora.

Geroge Martin

(Flora Martin dau. Samuel Sanford Martin)

She is in New York, living in the home of a doctor (a friend of her father) who offered to give her a home and an oportunity to get a better education than she could in frontier Illinois.

#1760

Washington, Illinois
October 29, 1863

Dear Son,

We are all in comfortable health. All the sick are getting along finely. Avis is lame and stiff like having the rheumatism, but this is nothing more than is to be expected in those who are recovering from diphtheria. We had two letters from Flora. She had not heard of poor Brucie's death. It has been such a time with us that we could not write particulars to you. Clarrie and Bruce died in the same way with about the same symptoms and changes from diphtheritic membrane spreading to the air passages of the lungs after the urgent symptoms in the throat were much abated. We employed Dr. Wood for Dr. Martin was far off and thus necessarily irregular in his visits. We all feel satisfied with the course adopted by each doctor and have no fault to find. Nothing short of a miracle could reach and remove the malady when it went to the lungs. We cannot recall the dear ones and would not if we could. They are safe at home and doubtless look down in sympathy and pitty upon us, before whom so much of the great conflict is.

Has Aunt Mary invited Flora to come and stay with her? Our advice is that she go not among strangers at this time. But that she come home if she does not stop with you. You had better both come home if you cannot compose your minds to study. So as to avoid morbid gloom. We commend you continually to the care and keeping of our Father in heaven. May His wisdom direct your every choice.

A cold drizzling rain falling upon the decaying leaves talks to us of death, decay and winter, while

"The friends gone there before me
Are calling from on high;
And happy angels o'er me
Tempt sweetly to the sky."

A loving gentle Father appoints our task and fixes our time and when His will is done will say, "It is enough, come up higher."

Love to all the friends, farwell

Geroge Martin

Father.
(Samuel Sanford Martin)

Dear George,

Just a word to tell you now I am up.

Yours affectionately,

Mother.

1790 Washington
Nov. 3, 1863

Dear Aunty,

I arrived safely at home Monday eve and found the folks improving. I was glad to get home. I missed the train at Dunkirk or I would have got home Saturday eve. I caught a bad cold travelling. So I feel under the weather this morning. Good bye

George.

Son of Samuel Stanford Martin

Washington
November 5, 1863

Dear Aunt, (Mary Ann Blakeslee)

We are all improving yet, except for me. I have a bad throat, nothing like diphtheria though. (This probably is a mild diphtheria, PMB.) The interpretation of Brucies last broken words, "A week, week - 10 - 10 " etc. Seems to have been brought to light. It seems strange that it was just one week after his death that Flora arrived at home and just ten days when I did. We don't want to be superstitious, but it had a great affect on our minds. I have not decided what to do as yet, but I shall want to stay here some time any how. We will write you. Aunt Harmony is with us yet. I have not much to write.

(They listened to and attached a great significance to the last words of the dying.)

Good bye,

George

Friday

Dear Aunt Mary, (Mary Ann Blakeslee)

As George has said, I arrived home safely without any trouble although I travelled alone.

Of course, I miss the active little ones who are gone, but I found the folks at home so much better than I expected that it was a great relief to be here. George's throat is better this morning, we were afraid at first he had diphtheria (Probably was mild diptheria PMB), but now seems only a severe cold. My throat troubles me some, but it is my old complaint. Avis is not well yet, the disease still lingers around her. She is troubled with stiffness and pain in every muscle and her eyes are so weak, that she can neither read, write or sew. (The poly nearitis which may follow diphterhia PMB.)

I shall ever look back on my short stay in the east as being a time crowded full of enjoyment. It seemed as though, turn which way I would, there was some new pleasure waiting for me. But pleasure cannot always last, it floats by like a passing cloud while sorrow and sterner realities of life take its place. In looking back I am sorry I have written the last for it portrays my feelings as being more gloomy than they really are. For I have been spared to reach home again, and blessed with health and strength and have much to be thankful for. Although I have seen sorrow the future is not dark and I am happy.

Mamma wanted to write to you but has not time. Give my love to all the friends reserving much for yourself and children. Write to us.

Your niece,

Flora
(Flora Martin, daugther of Samuel Sanford Martin)

Saturday Evening

Dec. 11, 1863
Libby Prison.

AFTER I returned home I found a letter from Albert of which this is a copy

Libby Prison
Dec. 11, 1863

Dear Parents,

Although I have failed to recieve any letter from my former letters to you answer I still persist in trying to assure you of my welfare. Since Nov. 21 I have been clerking for the Confederate Quarter Master who has charge of the rations and clothing, sent us from the United States. This has fournished employment for body and mind and the time has passed pleasantly compaired with the former six weeks. Altho I am not a whit less a prisoner. This reminds me that the food and clothing sent us has and is being distributed as the men require despite all stories to the contrary. Sickness (much) prevails among our men. The small pox is fast hurrying many to there graves. I am anxiously looking for our congress to take some steps that shall result in our release. And I hope that I may join you at the 15 of January at the farthest. In you answer to this please direct to me at Libby Prison, Care of Captain McRae Selph. Also enclose a few stamps My best love to Ella and the boys

Your affectionate son
A. S. Patrick

To the Baptist Church in Colesville, Broome Co., N. Y.
Covenant Meeting December 12, 1863.

The undersigned, a member of this church, being grieved with the conduct of Frederick W. Martin, respectfully submits the following charges and specifications against him to this church for their action.

1. For contemptuously and scandalous treatment toward him in public when pastor of the church, and when acting as moderator in the church.
2. And conducting toward him and toward the church in an unbecoming and unchristianlike manner.
3. For misrepresenting the acts of the church and endeavoring to promote schism and discord in the church.
4. For refusing to walk with the church according to his covenant.
5. For telling and circulating repeated falsehoods in relation to the actions of the church, and the part the undersigned had taken in such action when he was pastor of the church.
6. For refusing to pay his subscription which he had promised to pay.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

N. Wright.

From J.D.B. Bill fold.

Dec. 19, 1863
Wd. Cowdery dr to one U.C.Wringer

Febr 12 1864
John Allen dr to one U.C.Wringer.

James A. Chaffee dr to one U.C.Wringer.

Cresson dr to one U.C. Wringer

J. Ketchum dr to one U.C,Wringer.

Able Doolittle dr to one U.C.Wringer

Febr 13, 1864

Frank Putnam dr to one U.C.Wringer

Abbot dr to one U.C.Wringer

Gaile Smith dr. to one U.C.Wringer

Henry Hendricks dr. to one U.C.Wringer

Nelson Stow dr to 1 U.C.Wringer

Wm Smudge dr to i U.C.Wringer

Febr 15

J.F. Bishop i U.C. Wringer

Joseph B. Frasier
Warren E. Martin
George Barnes
M.S.Merwin
Huntington Allen
Wd. F. Crawford
Dan Hurlburt
H, Cole
Wm. Keech
Lyman Wright
Joel Crofutt
March 5
Joel Brinard.
Harry Williams
Lydia Charter
Sarles
Chr. Richard
Eldon Noble
Warren Doolittle
Hune 20
Able Doolittle
Stanley Yale
F.W Vaninburgh
Ezra Hickox
Gilber Panamburgh
Timothy Crass
Albert Everett

Stanley Wasson
Marcus Stow
Levi Pratt
A. Hurlburt
John Scowton
Jluy
Hohnson Bird.
Furman
Philander Thomson
Sept
R. Francis
Levi Stow
Tracy Doolittle
Norman Welton
Aaron Freeman
B. Herkimer
Orvil Mumford.
Albert Reedd
Kelsey Williams
H.S.Hunt
Abraham Kark
Sam Andrews
S.S. churchill ~~Isaac Gouw~~
Isaac Ganou
L.W.Ganow
Bob Hocomb
Isaac R. Livingston
Nov

There were listed about 25 more transaction involving these wringers.
They sold for $7.00 to 12.00 Apparently he placed them in the home for trial and about half of them sold for cash, Half returned.

#950

3 West Baltic Street.
Brooklyn, N.Y.
Dec. 26, 1863.

Dear Brother (Wm. Oscar Bancroft)

Franks letter with it enclosure of %500 came to hand on the 7th. Neslon Stowe stated that Mr. Guy had the oportunity of selling the oldest colt for $100. and asked me what he had better do. I say sell. I need my part of the money more than the growth of the colt. About the separate sale of the Merrill farm I say the two should be sold as a dairy or sheep farm. The price is $8,500.00 for both. Or the farm with stock and tools for $10,000.00. The farm aw follows, cash down $4,000.00. The purchaser to assume the loan of $12,000.00. The balance of 3,300.00 in four equal payments anually with interest. I should not be willing to take a mortgage behind two other mortgages. I would give i mediate possession of the house and garden on the Merrill farm. And the whole farm, subject to Mr. Guy's lease which will be worth $700. for the year or seven percent on the on the purchase money of the farm, stock etc. It is possible I may sell the Merrill farm myself. See what Mr. Poole will give and let me know. Mrs. Patrick thinks we should sell the Merrill farrm and keep the old farm. I think I should sell the Merrill farm for $4,000.00 as follows, the purchaser to assume the payment of the Smith Mortgage of $1200.00 balance 2800.00 down. Give full possession April 1, 1865; deduct the years interest of $280.00 from the $2800.00 and let him look after the Mortgage himself. The purchaser to have the privilege of making improvements but not to interfere with Mr. Guy's family.

Tell Mr. Guy that the first of the last two tubs of butter was excellent

Our folks think I am off ring the Merrill farm too low that in these times it ought to bring $4200.00 and you may try to sell at that figure and let me know the results.

We held a Chriwtmas festival at our new Mission Chapel. I hope to enter it permanently the second Sabbath in January. It cost furnished about %6,000.00 At our last church meeting we also voted to make a donation of $2,000.00 to the Tabernacle church to assist them in getting well to house keeping. We have employed a Missio nary at the salary of $800.00 to assist our pastor so you see the extra work laid out by the church will cost $8,800.00

The Prent school have their festival on Tuesday evening and have raised over $200.00 for gifts.

There are some indications of a rrevival in our church. Particularly in the unday School.

Mrs Patrick and the Children join in sending love to yourself, wife father and mother

Truly Yours,

Elias Patrick

New York 19 Sept. 1864.

Wm. Oscar Bancroft,
Nineveh, N.Y.
My Dear Sir,

Yours of the 2nd, of March received. We note with satisfaction your renewed interest in your kindred, and the disposition you evince in looking over your life to recognize devine goodness and acknowledge that you have occasion to raise an Ebenezer. We hear of your father's prostration with sympathy. If he is near his end, he is, we believe near the rest which the weary pilgrim longs for: none of us can say."Ab de here, when bhe Master would draw him near to himself. Give him our Christian salutation.

Father was quite ill in June for the first time in 30 years, had a billious attack which we feared wluld prove fatal, and left him very nervous, but he has quite recovered now. Mother is as well as usual. My health is poor, it has not improved any by the disaster of June 1 which you noticed, and for your sympathy thank you. My loss may not be too great but I feel it. I have joined Hiram, have thrown the two yards into one, paid off my partner and relinguished the planning budiness. My wife is trim just now, inclined to chilly sensations now, loss of appetite, etc. Our children are well. Fred, the oldest, will have to leave school in the spring and take up the elements of business life somewhere.

Edward Payson we heard from under date of June 22nd., well supplied with comforts and necessaries in Florida right among the slave holders, the horrid slave holders as your father would say. We hope to see him when peace is declared.

Edward Demarest is well and prospering much as an industrious farmer of good judgement. His son who was married last fall, a year ago, is placed upon a farm next west of Mr. John Tatum, bought by his father last winter and being near the hoestead, they work the farm together.

From Uncle J. H. Demarest we hear very little. My sister Ellen is to be married early in October to Mr. John B. Hollister of our church and will board with sister Emeline at Boiling Springs where also is brother William. Remember us kindly to our friends with whom we have acqaintance. Your truly

H.D.Crane.

Probably in the 1870s
Could be confirmed in
Katy's diaries.

Pirly Bush, Supervisor of the Town of Colesville.

Sir, please pay Ezra M. Crofut, father of Lura A. Crofut deceased, the sum of $32.00 of the public money in your hands applicable to the payment of teachers wages and apportioned to school district No. 12; she being a teacher duly certified according to law and entitled by contract to receive the same.

Dr. J.D.Bancroft's Medical Library.

Some of his books may be missing but these are in this collection.

1. Pharmacopoeia. United States, 1820. By Wells & Lilly, Boston. For Charles Ewer. First Edition. 272 pages. With Latin and English Index. Leather bound. Spalding, Hewson, Ives, Butts & Bigelow.
2. The American New Dispensatory, By James Thatcher,M.D., Second ediction. Thomas B. Wait & Co., and C. Williams. T.B. Wait & Co., printers, 1808. This book may have belonged to his father originally, Dr. David Bancroft III. 732 pages.
3. System of Materia Medica and Pharmacy, including tramslations of Edinburgh, London, and Dublin Pharmacopoeias. By John Murray M.D. From the 4th Edinburgh Edition by John B. Beck. New York. Evert Duyckinck, George Long, Collins & Co. W.E.Dean, Printer. 1824. 560 pages.
4. Modern Practice of Physic. Robert Thomas, M.D. Eighth American from the last London Edition. David Hosack. New York. S.B.Collins, and Collins & Co. 1825 1072 pages.
5. Theory and Practice of Physic. By George Gregory, M.D. From the first New York Edition, from the third London edition by Daniel L.M. Peixotto, M.D. New York. M. Sherman 1830 738 pages.
6. Fractures, Luxations and other affections of bones. By P.J. Desault. Edited by Xav. Bichat. Translated from the French by Chalres Caldwell,M.D. Second edition. Philadelphia, Kimber & Conrad. Braown and Merritt, printers. 1811 398 pages.
7. The London Dissector. First American edition from the fifth London Edition. Philadelphia. James Webster publisher William Brown printer. Not dated. In use by E. Allen Potter, a student, in 1828. J.D.Bancroft used it in 1829 244 pages. No drawings or illustrations of any kind.
8. Surgeons Vade-Mecum. Albany. Publisher E.F,Backus. E & E. Hosford. 1813 275 pages. Probably first owned by Nathaniel Bancroft.
9. The Practical Distiller by Samuel M'Harry. Published at Harrisburgh, Penn. by John Wyeth. 1809 184 pages. Belonged first to Dr. David Bancroft III, father of Dr. J.D.Bancroft.
10. Theory and Treatment of Fevers by Dr. John Sappington, revised by Ferdinando Stith,M.D. 1844 Arrowrock, Tenn. 1844. 216 pages.
11. Derangements of the Liver, Internal Organs & Nervous System by James Johnson,M.D, From the third London. Philadelphia. H.C. Carey & I. Lea. 1826 223 pages.
12. The Human Mind. Thomas ReiddD.D. New York. Publishers Johnstone & Van Norder 1824

An important case report by the Dr. John D.Bancroft of the 20th Century. In these volumes are case reports by Dr. John D. Ban croft of 150 years ago. Case reports are important for doctors in practice. The writer improves his skills in writing, gains stature among his peers, and the exchange of information improves the quality of medical care both locally and nationally.

A comparison of the case reports will reveal the astounding effects of the scientific revolution on medical practice. We of the 20th Century are prone to heap scorn upon the therapy of our predecessors. But this is bigotry. I am quite as proud of my great grandfather as of my grandson; both highly motivated, sincerely christian, better educated than most and seeking to grow intellectually through case reports, a means for exchanging ideas.

PMB

Late-Onset Neonatal Hypocalcemic Tetany

Sir.—I read with interest the recent article by Venkataraman et al.[1] In January 1985, I encountered a similar patient who developed late-onset hypocalcemia, hyperphosphatemia, and tetany and who responded well to calcium supplementation and a change to a low-phosphate formula (Ross PM 60/40).

Patient Report.—The patient was born to a gravida 4, para 4 mother following a pregnancy complicated by gestational diabetes. Her birth weight was 4.9 kg, and length was 54.5 cm (both greater than the 95th percentile). She was fed a humanized cow milk formula (Similac with Iron) and had no documented hypoglycemia or polycythemia while she was in the nursery. On the third day of life, the patient's mother noticed one episode of rhythmic head twitching that lasted for 10 to 15 s. No other abnormal movements were noted in the nursery. On the fourth day of life, the patient's mother noticed rhythmic jerking of the right arm and leg lasting about 15 s. On the fifth day of life, the patient exhibited generalized twitching of both arms and legs without stiffening and was evaluated in the emergency room, where she was alert and fed well, and where an examination yielded normal results. Her sodium (144 mEq/L), glucose (67 mg/dL), and magnesium (1.9 mg/dL) levels were all within the normal limits for the hospital laboratory. Her calcium level was 7.6 mg/dL, and her ionized calcium level was 3.64 mg/dL (normal range, 4.75 to 5.2 mg/dL). She was admitted to the community hospital for further evaluation and had another episode of generalized twitching lasting 30 s. Lumbar puncture demonstrated normal spinal fluid, and an electroencephalogram was normal. She was treated with intravenous calcium gluconate and later, on the first hospital day, her calcium level was 10.0 mg/dL with a phosphorus level of 10.3 mg/dL. She continued to receive Similac with Iron formula and was given oral calcium gluconate supplements (47 mg/kg/day). Despite this, on the second hospital day, her calcium level fell to 7.4 mg/dL, and the calcium supplement was increased to 70 mg/kg/day. Late on the second hospital day, she was switched to Ross PM 60/40 formula. The following day, her calcium level was 9.2 mg/dL with a phosphorus level of 8.1 mg/dL. Following the switch to a low-phosphate formula and the introduction of oral calcium supplements, the patient had no additional episodes of tetany, hypocalcemia, or hyperphosphatemia. Calcium gluconate supplements were quickly decreased over the next week, and she continued to receive Ross PM 60/40 formula until she was 7 weeks of age. She has since returned to Similac with Iron formula and has had no recurrence of symptoms.

Comment.—Though this infant had the additional risk factor of maternal gestational diabetes, I found it interesting that she developed late-onset hypocalcemic tetany while being fed Similac with Iron formula and that her condition promptly resolved when she was switched to a low-phosphate formula. I wonder if any other pediatricians have noticed similar cases related to Similac with Iron or other relatively high-phosphate formulas.

John D. Bancroft, MD
Department of Pediatrics
The Monroe Clinic
1515 Tenth St
Monroe, WI 53566

1. Venkataraman PS, Tsang RC, Greer FR, et al: Late infantile tetany and secondary hyperparathyroidism in infants fed humanized cow milk formula. *AJDC* 1985;139:664-668.

Addendum 2

Mormonism—Increase of the Army.

SPEECH

OF

HON. JOHN THOMPSON, OF NEW YORK.

Delivered in the House of Representatives, January 27, 1858.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Chairman, in the pauses of the storm which the discussion of the Lecompton constitution has raised, and will raise, if ever presented here, into fiercer convulsions, and until which time I shall defer what I may have to say on that topic, I will avail myself of a temporary lull to bring to the consideration of the committee a subject which has not yet been discussed, but to which our attention will probably be directed, even before the affairs of Kansas shall be brought up for action.

For the first time since the organization of this Government, we are called upon to authorize the increase of the Army, ostensibly for the purpose of being employed against the people of one of our Territories. Under the provisions of the Constitution of the United States, article four, section three, new States may be admitted; and Congress has power "to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States." By virtue of this provision, Congress has, from time to time, out of territory acquired by the General Government from the original States, or by cession or purchase from foreign Powers, organized territorial governments, which, after due political tutelage, have applied for admission as States, and been received, to take the rank and privileges belonging to the original thirteen States of the Union. Year after year has the tide of emigration from Europe and the eastern States surged on, and on, tracking the path of the retreating savage; plowing up the pasturage of the wild buffalo; felling the forests; harnessing the waterfall to the wheels of mechanical and manufacturing industry; gemming the landscape with towns, villages, and cities—the abodes of peace, prosperity and refinement. Thus has the forest belt that lay around the original thirteen States been broken; the wigwam has disappeared; and double the number of coequal sovereignties now dwell in fraternal concord beneath the wide dome of the Republic! What was known as the Far West in the days of our boyhood, is now the Far East; and the representatives of millions of men stand beside us on this floor, whose tasteful dwellings have been reared where, within half a century, the war dance of the Indian was celebrated, or the panther of the wilderness made his lair. The valley of the Mississippi has become dotted with the homes of empire, fronting on that Father of Waters—to them as an inland sea and an outlet to the ocean. The trapper retreats to the head-waters of the Missouri, and gathers his spoil from the streams that thread the slopes of the Rocky Mountains. Up to their wooded bases surge the tides of advancing civilization; and beyond and over them breaks the wave, foaming on to the shores of the Pacific. Across vast plains—twelve hundred miles from the Missouri, sentineled by mountain ramparts;—the dry bed of a vast inland sea, with its salt waters sunken to an inconsiderable lake, whose margin sparkles with its twelve crystals, and four thousand two hundred feet above the sea level—lies the central Territory of the Republic—Utah! Ten years ago—a single decade—and not a dwelling dotted that valley; across it wound the rugged road of the trader, the bridle or war path of the Shoshonee and his savage allies or foes. Standing on an eminence of the Wahstach mountains, to the east, their glittering peaks lifting themselves eight thousand feet in the clear, silent air, and fringed far beneath by shaded masses of pine and fir and balsam, appear receding ranges of hills and streams, sparkling like silver threads, and narrow gorges, looking like abysses in the distance; and westward the mountains become lower, and gradually melt away, until a valley, holding in its bosom this lake of salt, spreads out before it. All around on the slopes of the descending hills run even benches, formerly the water levels of the lake, and now used for cultivation or pasturage. At the foot of these rise the mud walls of a city, covering an area of six square miles, the abode of half the people of the Territory, which now holds more than sixty thousand souls! As by a common impulse, they have come together from all parts of the world—from Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Scotland, England, Australia, and the United States. They have become a nation in a day. They have trade, industry, manufacturing and mechanical skill; they have law, government, and a religion. They are a homogeneous people; act by common impulse upon definite and fixed

principles; and, after having applied as a Territory for an organic law in 1850, and been organized in pursuance of its provisions, received a Governor, judges, a marshal, and a district attorney, from Federal appointment; after sending their Delegate to sit in the councils of the nation, they have seen fit to repudiate the paternity and power of the General Government; to break up the Federal courts; to deny all political influence in their councils coming from or through the agency of Federal officers, and fall back upon a theocratic polity that impiously claims the immediate inspiration of the Most High as its source and authority, revealed through His servant and prophet, Brigham Young.

This leader, who rules this people with an unquestioned despotism, through a machinery I shall examine, after temporizing under Mr. Pierce as Governor and Indain agent, has at length grown desperate enough to declare openly his defiance of the General Government; and emboldened by distance and long success, gathered from the supineness of the executive power that had employment nearer home for all its energies, comes out by proclamation declaring military law, usurps all the functions of territorial government in his person, and is training and marshaling his battalions for resistance and encounter. Three thousand brave men—our brothers and our sons—have, in obedience to the executive mandate, crossed the plains and rest in their tents near the mountain passes that girdle that Territory. The wintry snows have not damped their ardor, or cooled their glowing courage; the howl of the savage, impelled to run off their horses and cattle by the stimulus of Mormon craft has not made them irresolute or desponding; the driving tempest and the icy hail rattle upon their canvas covering, but the camp is merry with glee and the martial airs of Columbia echo through the passes and linger on every lip.

Why they were ordered off at a season which compelled this inevitable exposure, contrary to all prudent foresight, and against the advice of wise and experienced councils, lest those who did it explain and justify to the people and the country, if they can. Whether the loud and deep murmurs that began to roll from all parts of the land towards the capitol, condemning the retention of five thousand troops in Kansas Territory, under the pretence of maintaining law and order, and compelling a free people to vote or refrain from voting under the roar of United States artillery, according to settled programme formed at Washington, had the effect of starting forward the enterprise too long delayed, it is impossible accurately to determine. Should the disasters which now threaten our brave men, and which were anticipated by the sagacious in consequence of their long and unnecessary detention and late march, eventually fall upon them; should not Providence defied, and the enemy tempted, be better than our fears or our deserts, they who were instrumental in this dreadful exposure will be held to a strict and exacting account. Men in the plentitude of power, and backed by a dominant party hurrying them on, may for a time defy public opinion; but its edicts are unsparing upon imbecility or crime, and its vengeance sure. Let them remember that! Yes, sir, let them remember it!

Such is the aspect of things at this hour. The General Government has superseded Young as territorial Governor. His successor (Cumming) has issued his proclamation, exhorting the people to lay down their arms and refrain from all disorderly and treasonable projects. The idle wind that sweeps those plains is not more idle and ineffective than these proclamations upon that people. Their imperial priest, despot, and dictator, from his dual throne, as potentate of the Saints and vicegerent of the Almighty, laughs them to scorn. Entrenched behind the material bulwarks of distance and the wall of rock which nature has provided; girded by sterile plains and verdureless hills, and guarded by a blind fanaticism that knows no law beyond his will, and will shed its last drop of blood at his behest, he has become foolhardy by impiety and the unquestioning devotion that encircles him. The wiley craft of the conspirator and the low cunning of the knave have given place to the grasping ambition of the chieftain and the hopeful enthusiasm of the traitor and the prince.

In his plotting brain the time has arrived to cast off the allegiance he swore to this Government, which he once needed to subdue or wheedle the savage, around whom he now believes he has thrown stronger toils. A sway of more than six years, as head of the State and of the Church—wielder at once of the sword of territorial sovereignity and the crozier of spiritual might—has compacted and cemented in his grasp a dominion he is impatient to extend, and will not surrender! Ten thousand swords will leap from their scabbards at his beck; thirty thousand hands of male and female alike, will toil incessantly to sustain his power, linked, as they believe it to be, with their best interests in time and their salvation forever.

What is this moral and political phenomenon that looms up so grandly, and has ripened so soon; defying the forces of the Republic, and attracting the attention of the civilized world.

The President says in his message:

"A territorial government was established for 'Utah by act of Congress, approved the 9th September, 1850, and the Constitution and laws of 'the United States were thereby extended over 'it 'so far as the same, or any provisions thereof, 'may be applicable.' This act provided for the 'appointment by the President, by and with the 'advice and consent of the Senate, of a Governor, 'who was to be *ex officio* superintendent of Indian 'affairs, a secretary, three judges of the supreme 'court, a marshal, and a district attorney. Subsequently acts provided for the appointment of the 'officers necessary to extend our land and our Indian system over the Territory. Brigham Young 'was appointed the first Governor, on the 20th 'September, 1850, and has held the office ever 'since. Whilst Governor Young has been both 'Governor and Superintendent of Indian Affairs 'throughout this period, he has been, at the same 'time, at the head of the Church called Latter Day 'Saints, and professed to govern its members and 'dispose of their property by direct inspiration and 'authority from the Almighty. His power has 'been, therefore, absolute over both Church and 'State.

"The people of Utah, almost exclusively, belong

'to this church, and believing with a fanatical spirit 'that he is Governor of the Territory by Divine 'appointment, they obey his commands as if they 'were direct revelations from Heaven. If, there-'fore, he chooses that his government shall come 'into collision with the Government of the United 'States, the members of the Mormon church will 'yield implicit obedience to his will. Unfortunately, 'existing facts leave but little doubt that such is 'his determination. Without entering upon a 'minute history of occurrences, it is sufficient to 'say that all the officers of the United States, judi-'cial and executive, with the single exception of 'two Indian agents, have found it necessary, for 'their own personal safety, to withdraw from the 'Territory, and there no longer remains any go-'vernment in Utah but the despotism of Brigham 'Young. This being the condition of affairs in the 'Territory, I could not mistake the path of duty. 'As Chief Executive Magistrate, I was bound to 'restore the supremacy of the Constitution and 'laws within its limits. In order to effect this pur-'pose, I appointed a new Governor and other 'Federal officers for Utah, and sent with them a 'military force for their protection, and to aid as a '*posse comitatus*, in case of need, in the execution 'of the laws.

"With the religious opinions of the Mormons, 'as long as they remained mere opinions, however 'deplorable in themselves and revolting to the 'moral and religious sentiments of all Christendom, 'I had no right to interfere. Actions alone, when 'in violation of the Constitution and laws of the 'United States, become the legitimate subject for 'the jurisdiction of the civil magistrate. My in-'structions to Governor Cumming have therefore 'been framed in strict accordance with these prin-'ciples. After their date a hope was indulged that 'no necessity might exist for employing the milli-'tary in restoring and maintaining the authority 'of the law; but this hope has now vanished 'Governor Young has, by proclamation, declared 'his determination to maintain his power by force, 'and has already committed acts of hostility against 'the United States. Unless he should retrace his 'steps the Territory of Utah will be in a state of 'open rebellion. He has committed these acts of 'hostility notwithstanding Major Van Vliet, an 'officer of the Army, sent to Utah by the command-'ing General to purchase provisions for the troops, 'had given him the strongest assurances of the 'peaceful intentions of the Government, and that 'the troops would only be employed as a *posse* '*comitatus* when called on by the civil authority to 'aid in the execution of the laws."

"There is reason to believe that Governor 'Young has long contemplated this result. He 'knows that the continuance of his despotic power 'depends upon the exclusion of all settlers from 'the Territory except those who will acknowledge 'his Divine mission, and implicitly obey his will; 'and that an enlightened public opinion there 'would soon prostrate institutions at war with the 'laws both of God and man. He has, therefore, 'for several years, in order to maintain his inde-'pendence, been industrously employed in collect-'ing and fabricating arms and munitions of war, 'and in disciplining the Mormons for military ser 'vice. As superintendent of Indian affairs, he has 'had an opportunity of tampering with the Indian 'tribes, and exciting their hostile feelings against 'the United States. This, according to our infor-'mation, he has accomplished in regard to some 'of these tribes, while others have remained true 'to their allegiance, and have communicated his 'intrigues to our Indian agents. He has laid in a 'store of provisions for three years, which, in case 'of necessity, as he informed Major Van Vliet, he 'will conceal, 'and then take to the mountains, 'and bid defiance to all the powers of the Govern-'ment.'

"A great part of this may be idle boasting; but 'yet no wise Government will lightly estimate the 'efforts which may be inspired by such frenzied 'fanaticism as exists among the Mormons in Utah. 'This is the first rebellion which has existed in our 'Territories; and humanity itself requires that we 'should put it down in such a manner that it shall 'be the last. To trifle with it would be to encourage 'it and to render it formidable. We ought to go 'there with such an imposing force as to convince 'these deluded people that resistance would be in 'vain, and thus spare the effusion of blood. We 'can in this manner best convince them that we 'are their friends, not their enemies. In order to 'accomplish this object it will be necessary, ac-'cording to the estimate of the War Department, 'to raise four additional regiments; and this I ear-'nestly recommend to Congress. At the present 'moment of depression in the revenues of the 'country I am sorry to be obliged to recommend 'such a measure; but I feel confident of the sup-'port of Congress, cost what it may, in suppress-'ing the insurrection, and in restoring and main-'taining the sovereignty o the Constitution and 'laws over the Territory of Utah."

Mormonism as a religious system had its origin in a romance, written about the year 1810, by Solomon Spalding, a native of Connecticut, who had been educated for the ministry, but followed a mercantile employment, removed to Cherry Valley, New York, where he amused his leisure hours by weaving into a book entitled by him the "MSS. Found," the notion entertained or suggested by some writers that the American Indians are the descendants of the lost ten tribes of Israel. Hence, he starts them from Palestine, invents for them various fortunes by flood and field, wars, quarrels, turmoils, strifes, separations, until they people this continent, and leave behind them the vestiges of mounds, tumuli, fortifications, sculpture, and cities dilapidated, which are discovered in Northern and Central America. It is written somewhat in Scripture style, and uses the machinery of the Jewish economy throughout. He read his manuscript to various persons who yet remember it, but was not successful in procuring its publication. Somewhere about the year 1823, this manuscript fell into the hands of Jo Smith, a native of Windsor county, Vermont. Smith was about twenty years of age, and already exhibited that singular compound of genius and folly, of cunning and absurdity, of indolence and energy, of craft and earnestness, which distinguished him to the end of his career.

Under the new-light preachers of that day Smith became imbued with all the wild and extravagant notions of seeing sights; hearing voices; receiving revelations; meeting and fighting the devil in bodily form; which indicate a diseased imagina-

tion, and want of all solid instruction and fixed principles on religious subjects. Enthusiasm ran mad through the whole region where he dwelt, and Smith was one of its most brilliant exemplifications; ultimately having a revelation that all existing systems of religion were wrong, and that he should be made the prophet of a new faith For more than five years he vibrated between his caution and his enthusiasm; giving out, occasionally, dark hints about certain mysterious plates to be dug up by him, containing a new revelation. Part of his time was spent in lying, swindling, and debauchery, and the remainder in visions and repentance; the vulgar habits of the brute contending with the higher functions of the prophet. At length he pretended to dig out the plates from the side of a hill, in Palmyra, Wayne county, New York; placed himself behind a curtain, permitting no one to enter, from which *sanctum* he translated from the plates the book of Mormon to an amanuensis, reading it all from Spalding's manuscript in his possession, one hundred and eighteen pages of it having been stolen by Martin Harris. With this new Koran our modern Mohammed started upon his career.

On the 5th of May, 1829, John the Baptist came back to earth to baptize Smith; and on the 6th of April, 1830, the first church of Latter-Day Saints was organized at Manchester, New York, consisting of four Smiths and two converts out of the family—Pratt, Rigdon, Kimball, and Young, joining afterwards. This Bible, unlike that of the Christian or Musselman, purports to be chiefly historical, and does not enunciate or enforce a system of moral and religious truth in a philosophic or didactic form; all its incidental lessons upon life or manners being derived from current doctrines of this day. It is consequently incapable of comparison with any other extant form of religious faith. One might as well compare the Christian religion with Fenelon's Telemachus, or one of Jame's novels.

"If it be true that the author of the Koran stole 'his materials, yet must a man had greatness and 'elevation of soul to have stolen as he has done. 'If on the rich fields of sacred literature he plun-'dered, he plundered like a prince! The spoil 'which he gathered so largely from the Jewish and 'Christian Scriptures, might be likened to that 'with which certain learned and munificent con-'querors have graced their triumphs. They have 'indeed trampled upon and overthrown the ancient 'seat of arts and learning; but yet have first 'snatched from the devastations of war, each sig-'nal monument of greatness and beauty."

And out of these monuments he constructed an edifice, if of grotesque, yet gorgeous proportions, and blazing with the decorations of oriental splendor; but the materials of the Mormon book, though mostly derived from the same source, are so crazily jumbled together, so inartificially constructed, that if a whirlwind had scattered the leaves of the sacred record, and combined them again with the feats of Baron Munchausen by machinery, it could not have surpassed this production of inanity and folly.

Two things may be remarked upon this Koran of Mormonism. 1st. It does not sanction the central principle of the new faith as now practiced—polgamy: this was the growth of after years. 2d. It does not purport to be a full and complete revelation; indeed, it discloses that twenty-one plates and stones are still buried and undiscovered in the hill "Comorah," in the State of New York. But neither the plates dug up, nor those still unknown prevented Smith from having direct visions and revelations from the Most High; and it is by this instrumentality primarily, and not by any potency in the doctrines embodied among the contemptible literature of the Mormon Bible, that the system has grown into its present magnitude. A very similar organization existed a short time before at Sing Sing, in the State of New York, headed by Matthias Folger, and others, which soon ripened and died out with a disclosure of the vices and selfishness of its founders. There is nothing whatever in the distinctive doctrines or truths of Mormonism which would tend to give it perpetuity. These elements lie in its polity, which was not at first a matured system, but grew up gradually, as circumstances gave it development:

First. An eldership of two and two was organized to preach the new system, consisting principally of violent harangues against all existing forms of religious faith.

Second. An apostleship of twelve, after the model of the early Christian church, with plenary power over inferior orders.

Third. A commission of seventy, now very much enlarged, to go through the world and propagate the new faith.

Fourth. A location for the "new Zion," where, without disturbance from Gentile powers, it could carry out and display its inherent strength, and evince its glory on a scale proportioned to the greatness of its origin and the divine superintendence it commanded.

Fifth. A perpetual and infallible inspiration, through the high priest designated by Heaven, according to whose revelations all the personal, social, domestic, economic, political, military, and religious concerns of the church are to be regulated, in the minutest matter, without hesitation, question, or appeal.

There was an attempt, by Smith, to introduce communism while the Saints were located at Jackson, in Missouri, in 1832; but the principle of *meum* and *tuum* was yet too strong for the immature fanaticism of the early disciples, and the experiment has not been repeated.

This element of spiritual despotism pervades all the several orders, and runs through the entire line of this singular affiliation. It grasps and encompasses every interest, the vast and the minute, public as well as private. No circle is too sacred for its prying censorship and approach! Its thousand eyes gaze upon all the promptings of ambition, all the workings of its industry, all its complainings, discontents, hopes, affections. Through mysterious and hidden conduit pipes flow to the ear of this dictator the secrets of every domicil, the throbbings of every soul; and back, like a thunderclap, comes a revelation that goes crashing on its remorseless way, through heart and home of the disciple, who takes up his staff and flies to fulfill its stern decrees. It is a despotism which combines all the traditional force of Mohammedan absolutism with the shifting policy of Jesuit craft—dominant at once over State and Church, intolerant, exclusive, and fanatical. If "the priest of

superstition rides an ass, and the priest of fanaticism a tiger," here is a double proof and representation of the fact.

Every convert is a zealot; every zealot a hero! To believe in these ravings and inspirations, reason and history, science and the world's progress, all the morals of Christianity and all the precious boons of civilization are first ignored and repudiated; a blind, bigoted, unreasoning, mindless faith supplants and swallows everything beside itself; and having laid down its majestic independence and its manhood, and accepted the fetters of a slave, the wilder the rant the sooner it obtains credence. We have deemed, in our complacency, that no wide-spread delusion could roll its turbid waters over the surface of social life in these ends of the nineteenth century; but we wake up to this phenomenon growing under our eyes and at our hearthstones, that involves the reign and rage of certain principles of human nature we had hoped were long ago discarded; that comes raving for its victims in the circle of our religious and political institutions, and by the fascinations of its egregious and impudent imposture, its intemperance, its folly, its blasphemous atrocity, carries them forth to exhibit to our baffled hopes and sickened sensibilities a spectacle of credulity and virulence, such as we had hoped history recorded only for warning, and not imitation!

It discards the fanaticism of the scourge; as penances and personal inflictions are not within its policy, except so far as direct and practical devotion to the interests of the "Saints" demand individual sacrifices. It passes by the fanaticism of the brand; its lust is not that of cruelty, and its jaws do not yet reek in blood. Its common hatred has not yet risen to an immortal abhorrence, nor its wrath swelled to execration. Fear and policy, and no inherent virtue of the system, have restrained this manifestation of its nature; for if all external pressure was removed, and the gleam of American bayonets did not glitter before the Mormon eye, it would persecute instead of curse, and exterminate Gentile contumacy where it had failed to convert. But it grasps with a lusty arm the fanaticism of the banner!

Clad in the sacerdotal ropes of the priest, over which are drawn the vestments of the soldier, this unscrupulous and traitorous warrior-ecclesiastic rings out the blended war-cry of the chieftain with the imperial edict of the Pope! From the sacred seclusion of the cloister, he emerges with mailed glove and plumed helmet. The will of the Almighty comes from his mouth, and His direst wrath foams on his hissing lip. "To your tents, O Israel! defiance is safety! to crouch is to die! strike at once for your homes, your altars, your wifes, and your little ones!!" This appeal finds an echo in every heart. He covers his designs under the pretext of a religious persecution. Gog and Magog are coming up against the Saints! Patriotism, national pride, calculations of policy, motives of ambition, resentment at foreign interference, the revenge of detected hypocrisy, all mingle in profound excitement, to give it the character of a religious war!

But let me not blend the elements of its polity with the web of its historical development. One or two points more of the former, and I will then turn to the latter—its practical workings being only the outgrowth of its inner spirit. It is unlike either that *fanaticism* of the Papacy, that swept Europe of its brave chivalry, in the crusades, and poured its best blood on the Syrian sands, to redeem and sanctify the cradle of its faith, or that fanaticism of Mohammedanism, which leaped into the saddle, and flashing its cimetar in the sun bade the nations bow to the crescent; its battle cry being: "There is no God but God, and Mohammed is his prophet!" Each of these was invasive, aggressive, and acted independently of the political structures existing among the people they inflamed, and with which they did not meddle; but this is defensive, secluded, intense, because driven in upon itself. It blends in one the polity of State and Church, in imitation of the Hebrew thocracy, and spends its missionary zeal in proclaiming through every clime that God has come down to men; that a millennium on earth has opened; that within its peaceful walls care and sorrow and pain are no more; that a brotherhood of love and concord is established, where, surrounded by all that can gratify the taste and please the senses, the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest. This earnest, enthusiastic proclamation and promise is one of the grand agencies of its success—the secret of its marvelous enlargement.

What wonder that the down-trodden, famishing masses from Wales, Scotland, Sweden, Germany, France, and all parts of the other world, without education, without moral instruction, are caught by the picture, and start in troops for this earthly Paradise? What marvel that eager crowds begrimed with the soot of the dark mine, or pale from the faintness of the heated factory—what marvel that the victims of an ecclesiastical system, that is known only by its oppressions; and taxes and tithes, while it fails to bless or enlighten—what marvel that they crowd round the earnest man in the thronged marts of the continent, or on the corners of the rural hamlets of England, and drink in his words, blazing with his own enthusiasm, as he paints the earthly glories of the God-defended Eden of the West, which sparkles to the eye of faith in the distance, the embodiment of all excellence that the imagination ever painted? And then comes in the aid of "organized emigration;" in vast communities, with the order and precision of an army, they set their faces resolutely for their new home; and along every avenue, from the Atlantic and Pacific alike, in winter and in summer, toil on with a dogged energy, that in itself is morally sublime. Sixty thousand souls at least own the sway of this occidental hierarchy. Men and women of low intelligence, burning zeal, simple habits; but guided and governed in all their affairs by this inspired priesthood—a priesthood constituted mainly of the Yankee element, as to nationality—an element, in this case, of canting, calculating hypocrisy, which first inquires whether it will pay; and, secondly, whether it promises power; and, thirdly, whether it imposes any limitation upon license and lust; and having satisfactorily settled these profound questions of the pocket and the flesh, with the cool devilitry of an ordinary speculation, places itself in the priesthood council and eldership; leers about from its high seat in the sanctuary for beautiful inmates of its harem, and stimulates its palled appetites by new victims, as often as exhausted passion loaths the worn and wasted forms that cease

to amuse or please, where the heart is never touched, and woman is so degraded and defiled.

Sir, are the leaders—the master-minds of this fanaticism sincere? Smith was more hypocrite than enthusiast. His whole story of the origin of his bible was a lie; and, knowing that, he could not be sincere.

Nor do I entertain a higher respect for Young, or Kimball, or Pratt, or the other leading spirits who sustain them. Power and polgamy hold them there, and not a man of American birth and education would remain any longer than he could help it, if permanently deprived of both of these luxuries.

I need not argue before a Christian people this question of polgamy. If all the Abrahams and Solomons of the Old Testament practiced it, it is no less devilish and damnable. As long as the Almighty preserves by births and deaths the average equality of the sexes, what right has one man to thirty wives, any more than one woman to thirty husbands? thus defrauding twenty-nine in the social body of their rights. As long as the human heart demands and responds to a congenial and equal sympathy in the opposite sex; as long as man is capable of honor, or woman of love, so long will this licentious system which degrades her into a plaything of idle dalliance, or a breeding animal for children—every element of self-respect, every ray of sentiment, every upspringing impulse of her bleeding and bursting heart crushed out of her; her sense of equality, her queenly pride as wife and mother, her sacred place at the board and the hearthstone, gone, lost, sunken, in the shameless contentment of herding in droves like swine, beneath the roof of a creature who regards her as at once menial, mistress, and slave; so long will nature protest, with all the force of its outraged sensibilities, against this horrid desecration.

To *argue* such a question is to insult the mother that bore us, despise the home of our boyhood, and the virtues that refine and exalt the society in which we live. In a word, when we reflect that the primitive institution of marriage limited it to one man and one woman; that this institution was adhered to by Noah and his sons, amidst the degeneracy of the age in which they lived, and in spite of the examples of polgamy which the accursed race of Cain had introduced—when we consider how very few, comparatively speaking, the examples of this practice were among the faithful—how much it brought its own punishment with it, and how dubious and equivocal those passages are in which it appears to have the sanction of the Divine approbation; when, to these reflections we add another, respecting the limited views and temporary nature of the more ancient dispensations and institutions of religion—how often the imperfections, and even vices, of the patriarchs and people of God, in old times, are recorded, without the express notification of their criminality—how much is said to be *commanded*, which our reverence for the holiness of God and his law will only suffer us to suppose were, for wise ends, *permitted*—how frequently the messengers of God adapted themselves to the genius of the people to whom they were sent, and the circumstances of the times in which they lived—above all, when we consider the purity, equity, and benevolence of the Christian law; the explicit declarations of our Lord and his apostle, St. Paul, respecting the institution of marriage, its design and limitation—when we reflect, too, on the testimony of the most ancient Fathers, who could not possibly be ignorant of the general and common practice of the Apostolic Church—and, finally, when to these considerations we add those which are founded on justice to the female sex, and all the regulations of domestic economy and national policy—we must wholly condemn the revival of polgamy.

Sir, the common law, as well as the law of nature, deems it a great crime. The municipal law of every State in Christendom has made it a felony; and the wretch who, in the immunity of territorial distance and ecclesiastical protection, will practice it, is worthy of the felon's character, and should receive the felon's doom.

And then this *sealing process*—a mystery of abominations that no devil not first brutalized could have invented. As a consequence of its polygamous intercourse, divorces are granted freely at the parties's option, and woman goes through the process of legal transference from one master to another, as the authorities may determine, many marrying five or six times, and their husbands all living—the whole invention being hardly a vail for promiscious intercourse.

The history of this fanaticism is soon told. The church was organized in 1830. In August, 1831, they commenced a settlement at Independence, Jackson county, Missouri—revealed to Smith as the site of the "New Jerusalem." Smith wavered long between this place and Kirtland, Ohio, where, in 1833, they commenced building their first temple, which was finished in 1836, at a cost of about fifty thousand dollars. In 1839, they relaid the foundations of their temple in Missouri. They left this region again for Nauvoo, in Illinois, where another temple was soon erected. Jo Smith's life and labors ended together in Carthage jail, where, on the 27th of June, 1844, he was shot by a gang of border ruffians.

And here endeth the first lesson, in the decease of the first saint of Mormonism by martyrdom. "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church;" and it proved true of this, not less than of other causes. From a plotter, trickster, and buffoon, Smith ascended the ladder, and in the apothesis became a saint and protecting divinity. Faith could now see in him qualities which sight would have contradicted.

And while the heaving mass was surging to and fro, and looking for direction, Brigham Young steps forward upon the scene. With consummate tact and a master hand he seized upon the reins of authority. This modern Elisha drew upon his shoulders the falling mantle of his master, and with a will that never wavers, and an eloquence of action and tongue that masters, subdues, and overwhelms, he sways the mass before him as with the stroke of an enchanter's wand.

Illinois spews them out; Missouri rejects them. Smith had aspired to the presidency, and the Saints wielded a banded political influence on which no party could count, and which could at any time turn the scale in a contest between them. Dissensions grew up, blood was shed in bitter broils; and as the land become too straight and their numbers increased, in 1845 they turned their eyes westward—to Vancouver's Island, to Texas,

to California, and finally to a valley in the Rocky Mountains. In 1848, as the young grass was peering from the sod and the buds were bursting into flowers, in the month of May, the exodus commenced. Pioneers having gone before, across the Mississippi they pass, and away over prairie and plain, men and women, flocks and herds—the heavy wain drawn by the lowing cattle—the patient tramp of feet, great and small—filing along the long line of fifteen hundred miles to a land naked as it came from the hand of its Maker; it was the heroism of faith! How sad that it had no worthier end!

From that day Young has reigned supreme, and thousands and tens of thousands have flocked to his standard. The unsettled religious sentiment of the lower grades of mind gravitate there. It is the Botany Bay of the world! There it stands rampant and defying. Its hand on its sword-hilt and its eye flashing fire; a Territory and not a Territory!—a Republic in embryo!—a despotism consummate, wearing the show of popular approval and bending willingly to the nod of a tyrant. There it stands—it is before you in your path to the Pacific—it will not away at your bidding; a huge, ugly, stubborn fact, which no ignorance can disregard and no political fatuity despise.

What will you do with it? Will you turn despot and saber sixty thousand souls because they believe in Brigham Young and polygamy? Will you meet the fanaticism of folly and fraud by the fanaticism of extermination? Will you make the city a desert and the region a howling wilderness on the one hand; or, will you suffer this moral cancer, inflaming political treason, to grow on untouched until it becomes too vast to handle? Will you permit an independent and defiant despotism, organized in the very heart of this continent, and embracing the vilest and most intractable elements of which a community can be composed, to compact and strengthen its defences, to train its battallions, to call home its forces, and light a fire at your threshold which all the forces of the Republic cannot subdue?

What will you do with Utah? Will you retrace your steps, and in defiance of the principle of the Kansas-Nebraska act, legislate polygamy out of the Territory, and so declare, and not leave them free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way? Will you repeal the territorial act which they have practically nullified; annex it to adjoining States or Territories, and let them deal with this sin to the family, and this treason to the State? What will you do? As an individual, I will say what I would do: There is no way of avoiding peril; but in the face of ten thousand Kansas-Nebraska acts, and all the false principles they embody, I would pass a law making polygamy a crime in the Territories, and then send a force sufficient to scatter every harem to the four winds. If it be objected that an *ex post facto* law cannot reach past evils, this may be true; yet the offence has been committed in defiance of the common law and moral sentiment of the civilized world, and should receive no favor. In any event, such a law would stay the tide, and the sore would slough off in one generation.

Secondly. I would send an army there sufficient to apprehend Young and all his co-conspirators against the authority of the General Government—who will be found to include every lord of the seraglio—try them for treason, and hang every one, without distinction, who should be found guilty; excluding every Mormon from any participation in the legal processes of the court.

Thirdly. I would secure to the inhabitants a republican form of government, and see that they enjoyed their freedom without the heel of a despot, spiritual or temporal, on their necks; and I would wait patiently to see the results; and if all thus failed, I would turn that city into a camp—a vast military depot, to guard and protect the highway to the Pacific.

There is but one question more. When and how shall it be done?

When? I answer now, without delay. This religious fanaticism has now assumed the form of a civil polity, and this civil polity is anti-republican and despotic; and this despotism has committed overt treason against the Government of the United States. The authority of every Federal officer is denied, or a reign of terror instituted over all their acts. War is proclaimed in fact. Forces are levied and trained for action. Slaughter is threatened. Our troops are defied, our courts closed, our offi[illegible]ers insu[illegible] the savages incited to plunder and r[illegible] peaceful citizens, with their wives and littl[illegible] pursuing the path of emigration, are surpr[illegible] and murdered in scores, with not a straggler left to tell the tale, their mangled corpses, or white skeletons, bleaching in the sun, disclosing the horrid tragedy. If anything is to be done not a moment should be lost. Every day strengthens its forces and compacts its power. Its agencies are hurrying home as fast as steam and money can speed them.

I know some think we should let them alone, and that the system must soon fall to pieces. But how long has Mohammedanism lasted! How much less reliable is the fanaticism of to-day than that of ten centuries ago. What element of this structure gives signs of impotence or decay? What limb of this hale giant is already smitten with moral paralysis, and gives tokens that its energies are spent, or even wearied? Sir, we have let them alone; and from a contemptible handful, they have grown into a nation! The citizens of Illinois and Missouri could eject them without aid; but now they stand behind a wall of ten thousand bayonets, and dare you to the encounter. The unorganized fanaticism of the world gravitates to Utah, and there it is molded into armies. Eight-tenths at least of these elements are foreign, uneducated by and unaccustomed to our institutions, with no love for democracy, and no reverence for national law; restless masses, impatient of restraint, and fraternizing only on the lust of license and the hope of power.

If it might not be deemed too fanciful, I would suggest a historical parallel in that of the fanatical Jew who rebelled against the Roman *power*, and brought Titus Vespasian to raze his city and temple, and level with the dust every vestige of his power, and every monument of his ancestral glory—a rebellion in which the fanaticism of the religious and military sentiments were equally brought into combination. Sir, this is not a religious war; a persecution for conscience sake, any more than was that. As well may the Thugs of India protest their religious principles in justi-

fication of assassination! Suppose the devotees in Utah adopt treason as an item of their religious creed; will such a baptism give them immunity for conscience sake? By no means.

But gentlemen fear the great cost of this war! They look round upon an empty Treasury and an accumulating debt; upon $6,000,000 unpaid for the Oregon war; upon unknown sums for the California campaign, to be ascertained and adjusted! They look upon commerce prostrate, manufacturing industry paralyzed, and the avenues of business closed by symptoms of derangement and distrust; our sources of national income diminished by decreasing imports, and by limited sales of the public lands. They see a system of wasteful expenditure organized in every governmental department; they discover that $100 000,000 per annum will be needed to keep us from bankruptcy; and they are appalled at the prospect of running the State into financial ruin, by an expensive intestine war!

I admit the truthfulness of the picture, in all its aggravations. But some matters are above money; there are crises in the life of a nation, when, whatever her financial burdens, she must incur heavier; when her integrity an[illegible] her prestige, her existence, are all at stak[illegible] calculate is folly, to hesitate is to perish. [illegible]eneral Washington hesitate and temporize [illegible]ount the cost, when a part of Pennsylvania rebelled on the whisky tax? No, sir; he sent fifteen thousand men into the field, and this promptitude, energy, manliness, itself quelled the storm, without shedding a drop of blood? The Saints of Utah may be as wise as the whisky dealers of the land of Penn, if they find the Government are equally in earnest. If they choose to risk a battle, I trust it will be such a battle as has not been seen on this continent—overwhelming, decisive, complete; such as our brave Army will fight, even if fanaticism provokes to feats of superhuman valor.

Let those who must bear the responsibility of the war determine mainly how it shall be waged, and what shall be the amount and character of its appointments—whether the additional force shall be that of volunteers, to which opinion I incline, or an increase of the regular Army—whether it shall approach from the east or the west—whether it shall employ horse or foot. But let them not have to say to the nation that a formidable rebellion has ripened, and is rioting unchecked among us, and we refuse the agencies to counteract or destroy it. I hope this may not become a party question—a shuttlecock for political partisanship to hurl to and fro. Let us deal with it as if we felt a common danger, and were only anxious to cope with and overthrow it. While I leave myself free to vote as I shall deem best upon all details, I stand committed, for one, to give my voice and vote to stay the march of this prairie fire; to fight it out at once, before it involves our homes and ourselves in the ruin of its spreading conflagration.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
BUELL & BLANCHARD, PRINTERS.
1858.

Mother Shipton's Prophecy

Written by an Englishman as a hoax in 1862 and considered absurd in W. Oscar Bancroft's day.

Carriages without horses will go
And accidents fill the world with woe.
Around the world thoughts will fly
In the twinkling of an eye.
Waters shall more wonders do,
Now strange, yet will be true.
The world upside down shall be,
And gold be found at root of tree.
Through hills man shall ride,
And no horse nor ass be at his side
Under water men shall walk,
Shall ride, shall sleep, shall talk.
In the air men shall be seen
In white, black and in green.
Iron shall in water float,
As easy as a wooden boat.
Gold shall,be found, and found
In a land that's now not known
Fire and water shall wonders do, and
England at last shall admit a Jew.
The world at an end shall come
In Eighteen Hundred and Eighty One.

Have these been realized?

Automobiles were on the streets of Harpursville in 1910. See the picture section of this collection.

Wm. Oscar studied telegraphy at the depot as young man.

Rev. Alvah S. Hobart experimented with a telephone about 1875

The Monitor and the Merrimac demonstrated how steel could be used in ship building.

Now, perhaps,we could accomplish the last in a nuclear war??

In todays paper, in commenting on recent floods in California it is reported an army of gold seekers are out. Their favorite places are where trees had been uprooted for this may uncover gold that has been inaccessable before

Ad 4

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18

These letter heads describe Wm. Oscar's last store. When his health failed William Demarest Bancroft was deputized and managed the store and postoffice.

Election of 1884 in a Republican stronghold. The Democrats elected Cleveland, but, here, the Republicans carried every office, PMB

ELECTION RETURNS.

From District No. One Town of Colesville

Please fill out this blank accurately, as soon as the vote in your district is canvassed, and bring or send it to the office of the ***Binghamton Republican*** *on the night of Election. We are very anxious to give the full canvass of the County on the morning after election. Reports can be used as late as three o'clock on the morning of the 5th of November. If you cannot send or bring us the full returns Tuesday night, please go to the nearest telephone or telegraph station and send the* ***Republican*** *a message giving* ***the majority in your district for Blaine or Cleveland,*** *and the majority for Millard, Olin and Brown or their opponents. Any reasonable expense will be paid by this office.*

CHAS. M. DICKINSON,
Editor Republican.

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Election of 1884 in a Republican stronghold; the Democrats elected Cleveland but, here, Republicans won every contest. P.M.B, 36b

ELECTION RETURNS.

From District No. ..... Town of .....

Please fill out this blank accurately, as soon as the vote in your town is canvassed, and bring or send it to the office of the BINGHAMTON REPUBLICAN *on the Night of Election. We are very anxious to be able to give the full canvass of the County on the Morning After Election. Reports can be used as late as two o'clock on the morning of the 7th of November. If you cannot send or bring us the full returns Tuesday night, please go to the nearest telegraph or telephone station and send the* REPUBLICAN *a message giving the* MAJORITY *in your district on Secretary of State, Comptroller, Treasurer, Attorney General, Engineer and Surveyor, Senator, Member of Assembly and District Attorney. Any reasonable expense will be paid by this office, but it is all important that the returns should be sent here Tuesday night.* CHAS. M. DICKINSON, *Editor Republican.*

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" " to Clora, class mates. 153
" , Eli from Mary Jane Beeman 169

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" , W.S. acct. Bancroft & Martin 340

Weed, Rev. William m Jane Bishop 169
" " "Donation party $30. 170

Welton, Betsy Ann, 3 Sept'52, Female Mite Soc. 46
" , J.E. 5 April '53 Butter contract 85
" " acct. Bancroft & Martin 340
" , " Baptist 384

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Wilcox, George, acct. Bancroft & Martin 340
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" , with Bancroft and Watrous seek charter for Temperance order 114
" , L. moved to Hudson Wisconsin, healthful clime 275

Woodworth. Publisher of paper, magazines 15-16

Yager, Asa. acct. Bancroft & Martin 340
" , Daniel " " " 340

Youngs, R. " " " 340

Early Settlers of Dedham, Mass.

John Rogers, "Silenced" in England.
Kingsbury
Gay
Allan
Fisher
Chickering
Gould

Collidge
Ellie
Luther
Micheal Metcalf
school teacher
Frasher
tavern keeper

"Towns of New England and Old England"
"History of Pilgrims and Puritans. 3 vols.
Nebraska Historical Society Library

Nationalities in the 1790 Census.
Kirkham, E. Kay, Deserett Book Co, Salt Lake City, Utah.

English	85.5 %
Scotch	6.7
Irish	1.6
Dutch	2.
French	0.5
German	5.6
Hebrew	less than 1.
All others	0.1

Average size of family 6.7
Number of Bancroft families 59
Families represented by more than 100 members
Bancroft
Martin
Magee
Hobart
Jones
Smith

Census Figures.

Broome County, N.Y. vol. #2
1820
Union Township

Males		Females
Under 10	359	358
10 to 16		162
16 to 18	50	
16-to 26	177	161
26 to 45	198	198
45 and up	139	90
Slaves		
Under 26		2
26 to 45	1	2
Free colored of all ages	21	

Agriculture	417
Commerce	2
Manufacturing	63

1820 Census
Harper Family

Males		Females
Under 10	2	1
16 to 18	1	
26 to 45	1	1

10 to 45
Engaged in Agriculture 1

First Colesville Town (Township) meeting

John Harper	Daniel Sanford	Ozias Marsh
Harvey Bishop	G. Blakeslee	Nathaniel Cole
Hathaniel Sanford	Elisha Sanford	Jeremiah Rogers
Samuel Martin	Samuel Badger	George Wilcox.

Pioneer Settlers in Colesville (Township)

John Lamphere 1786	Samuel and Nathan Badger 1787
Nathaniel and V. Cole	Daniel Picket
J. Merchant	Bateman Dickenson 1759 (4 above)
John Ruggles 1776	Isaac Ryrell 1776
E. Osborn 1800	Peter Mara 1800
Banjamin Bird 1794	Rev, Joseph Badger 1763
Joe Bunnell school teacher	Hon. Robert Harper, past professor.

During the period of French popularity, Harper changed his name to Harpur

The Census

Prior to 1850 listed only the name of the head of family.

The first census, 1790, presebted three columns, -
Males over 16; Males under 16; Females

The 1800 census presented 10 columns -
Males, under ten, 10 to 16, 16 to 26, 26 to 45, 45 and over
Females " " " " "

in 1830 presented 13 calumns,-
Males 0 to 5, 5 to 10, 10 to 15, 15 to 20, 20 to 30, 30 to 40
40 to 50, 50 to 60, 60 to 70, 70 to 80, 80 to 90, 90 to 100
Females were devided into same groups ,

1820 Census (4th Federal) Windsor - Broome Co.
Partial list

		0-10	10-16	16-26	26-45	45-Over	
Platt Crofut	M			1			
	F	1				1	Boarders 9
Eliakim Crofut	M		1	2		1	
	F		1			1	
Dan Martin	M				1		
	F		1	1			
Sam Martin	M	1	1	1	1		
	F	3	1	1	1		
Sam Badger	M		1			1	1
	F		1	3	1		
Chester Badger	M	3		1	1		
	F				1		
Sam Badger Jr.	M	4	2	1	1		
	F	1	2	1			
Robert Harper	M		1		1	1	
Esq.	F	1		1	1		
Luther Cole	M				1		
	F			1			
John W. Harpur	M	2		1	1		
	F	1	3	2	1		
Dan Crofut	M				1		
	F	1			1		
Peter Martin	M			1	1		
	F		1				
Physicians							
Elija Estes							
Levi Maxwell	M			1		1	
	F	2	2	2	1		
John Dusenbury	M		1		1	1	
	F			2	1		
Ezra Seymour	M	1	1	1		1	
	F	1			1		One free negro
Total	M	22	8	12	10	10	
	F	25	15	10	14	5	

Lawyers William Seymour & George Harper
Clergy Methodist 2, Episcopal 1, Baptist 2

Colesville Census of 1850

Alanson Martin	44	born in	Conn.	Laborer	
Olive "	31	"	Mass.		
Phebe "	10	"	N.Y.		
Seth W. "	9	"	N.Y.		
Mary "	8	"	N.Y.		
Bronson "	5	"	N.Y.		
Daniel "	4	"	N.Y.		
George A."	1	"	N.Y.		

Farm between Samuel Andrews and John Youngs.

Samuel Martin Sr,	59	"	Conn.	$7,000.00	Farmer
Lois "	33	"	N.Y.		
Mary Ann "	31	"	N.Y.		
Frederick "	28	"	N.Y.		
Azel D. "	24	"	N.Y.		
Zada A. "	19	"	N.Y.		
Betsey "	17	"	N.Y.		
Clora "	13	"	N.Y.	(2nd wife of Wm.Oscar Bancroft)	
Frances J. "	10	"	N.Y.		

Farm near Levi Manville Jr.

Daniel Martin	57	"	Conn.	$5,000.00	Farmer
Polly "	44	"	N.Y.		
Lydia A. "	27	"	N.Y.		
Phebe "	25	"	N.Y.		
Albert "	20	"	N.Y.		
Harriet "	18	"	N.Y.		

Harry Martin	50	"	Conn.	$6,000.00	Farmer
Betsey "	44	"	N.Y.		
Alvira "	20	"	N.Y.		
Warren "	19	"	N.Y.		
Harry "	16	"	N.Y.		
Jane "	14	"	N.Y.	(first wife of Wm·Oscar Bancroft)	
Mary "	11	"	N.Y.		
Amelia "	8	"	N,Y,		
Lucius "	5	"	N.Y.		
Jemima Knowlton	58	"	Conn.	Domestic	

Peter Martin	66	"	Conn.	$5,000.00	Farmer
Stella "	55	"	N.Y.		
Stella M."	24	"	N.Y.		
Emma E. "	21	"	N.Y.		
Anjinette"	16	"	N.Y.		
Alexander Guersey	33	"	N.Y.	Farm hand	

Ira Martin	31	"	N.Y.	$1,500	Farmer
Triphena "	27	"	N.Y.		
Eugene "	6	"	N.Y.		
Aubert "	3	"	N.Y.		
Myron W. "	1	"	N.Y.		
Susan C. "	1mo	"	N.Y.		

Harpursville, N.Y.

Farresdale	Farmer
"	Farm laborer
Barnes	Merchant
Holcomb	Farmer
Warner	Farm Laborer
Holcomb	Farmer
Levi Manville	"
Brown	Shoemaker
"	Machinist
"	Farm Laborer
Utter	" "
Kelley	" "
"	Saleman
"	Farm Laborer
Marsh	Retired Farmer
Vinton	Milliner
Burrows	Seamstress
Beman	Farm Laborer
Bishop	Carriage Maker
"	Master Mechanic
Swining	Domestic
Pilsco	Cooper Laborer
Brown	Blacksmith
Tyrrell	Farmer retired
Thompson	Harness Maker
Martin Ruggles	Merchant
Foster	Farmer
"	Farm Laborer
Wakeman	Farmer
"	Farm Laborer
Younger?	Farmer
"	Farm Laborer
Edson	Farmer
Montgomery	Farmer
Hardy	"
Furman	"
Thompson	"
Geo. Pratt	"
Travis	"
Schauten	"
"	Farm Laborer
Draper	House Joiner
Freeman, James	Farmer, later doctor father of Alice Freeman palmer
Draper	Farmer
Edmunds	"
Humiston	"
Hurd	"
Bogle	" Laborer
Wm. Hurlburt	Farmer
Blanchard	"
"	Farm Laborer,
Bagle	" "
Stevens	Farmer
"	Farm Laborer
Bemon	Lumber
Brown	Apprentice Lumber
Richards	Moulder, Foundry
"	Machinist, Foundry
Becker	Apprentice, Foundry
Vectnem?	Farm Laborer
Jeremiah Steen	Druggist
Josiah Shiffer?	Tobacco Salesman
E. Northrup	Farmer
Kasson	Farm Laborer
George Tyrrell	Landlord
Charles Huss?	Hostler
Woos	Domestic
Chaffee	Farmer
"	Joiner
Brown	Grocer
Stockwell	Tinner
Bedient	" Apprentice
Blatchley	Carriage Maker
Hakes	" "
"	" "
Hiram Tyrrell	Cooper
Palmer -	M.E.Clergyman
Ezekial Guy	Physician
John D. Bancroft	Physician retired & farmer
Eyh	Whip maker Apprentice
Merrick	Surveyor
Chas Pratt	Farmer
Levi "	"
Hickok	"
"	Farm Laborer
"	" "
Minnick	Farmer
"	Farm Laborer
Stevens	House Joiner
"	Farmer
Lorenzo Way	"
Billy "	"
William Keller	Farmer
Issac Hulbert	"
" "	Farm Laborer
Douglas "	Farmer
Lyon	"
"	Cabinet Maker
Pike	" "
" L.	Farm Laborer
"	Farmer
" W.	"
" Mary	Teacher
Soule	Farmer
Van Cusen	Farm Laborer
Hurd	Farmer
"	Farm Laborer
Bennett	" "

1860 Census - Harpursville continued

Collar	Farmer
Thompson	"
Montgomery	"
Whitaker	"
"	"
Bogle	"
Whitaker	"
"	Farm Laborer
Montgomery	Farmer
Levi Pratt	"
Younger	"
"	Farm Laborer
Stone	Laborer
Edredge	"
Whitaker	Cooper
Monger	Farmer
Harrington	"
"	Farm Laborer
Shay	Farmer
"	Farm Laborer
Welman	Farmer
Sherman	House Joiner
Moot	Farmer
Wayman	Farmer
Alvin Holcomb	"
Geo "	"
Milo "	"
Osias Darine	"
Moot, John F.	"
"	Farm Laborer
" John M.	Farmer
"	Farm Laborer
Haughtaling	" "
Utter	" "
Wayman	Farmer
Culler	"
Parker	"
Church	House joiner
Kittle	Farmer
Buck	"
Ezra Crofut	"
Wm. "	Farm Laborer
March	Farmer
Martin, Harry Jr.	Farmer
" Frederick W.	"
Brent	Cooper & farmer
Stephens	Farmer
Painter	"
Wallman	"
"	House Joiner
Manville, Henry	Farmer
Jenkens	Farmer
Scudder	Domestic
Tyrrell	Farmer

Wayne	Farm Laborer
Thurber	Farmer
Casey	"
"	Farm Laborer
Cook	Farmer
Billaghew?	Blacksmith
Truesdale	Farmer
"	Farm Laborer
Narcott	Farmer
Merrell	"
Cowdry	"
" Lucrecia	School teacher
" Martha	" "
" Olin	Farm Laborer
Hill	Farm Laborer
"	Farmer
Narcott	"
"	Farm Laborer
Webster	House carpenter
Narcott	Farmer
" Temperance	Seamstress
Wilcox	Farmer
Pease	Farm Laborer
Wilcox	" "
Edson	Farmer
Olds	Farm Laborer
Baker	Farmer
"	"
Bicken	Farm Laborer
Whitford	Farmer
Collar	"
Bunt	"
"	Farm Laborer
"	" "
Shelley	Laborer
Read	Farmer
"	"
Bates	"
Hurlburt	"
Beardsley	"
"	Farm Laborer
Hurlburt	Farmer
"	"
Ledson	Laborer
Vanep	Farmer
"	Farm Laborer
"	" "
"	" "
Shaw	" "
Cramer	Farmer
"	"
Martin	Farmer
Ured	"
Barnes	"
"	Reacher

1860 Census

Colesville

Fuller	Farm Laborer
Cramer (Craver)	Farmer
Russell	Farmer
Edson	"
"	"
"	Farm Laborer
Scudder	" "
Noble	Farmer
Estes	Domestic
Ackert	Farmer
Carrol	"
"	Farm Laborer
Thurbur	Farmer
"	Farm Laborer
White (Wight)	Farmer
"	"
"	Farm Laborer
Smith	Farmer
Hungerford	"
"	Farm Laborer
Osborn, Orris	Farmer
"	Farm Laborer
"	" "
Dean	Farmer
Bronson	"
"	Farm Laborer
Crandall	Laborer
Wedge	Farmer
"	Farm Laborer
"	" "
Baker	Farmer
"	"
"	"
Heath	Domestic
Baker	Farmer
Douglas	"
Scudder	Cooper
Roach	Farmer
Blatchley	Wagon Maker
"	Farm Laborer
Ławn?	Farmer
Phillips	"
"	Farm Laborer
Baker	Farmer
"	"
Winston	"
Cole	"
C ??	Farm Laborer
Hull	Domestic
Hazard	Farmer
Shattuck	Farm Laborer
Noble	Farmer
Martin, Peter	Farmer
Badger	Farmer
Squires	"
Elred	Farm Laborer
Stevens	House Joiner

Becker	Farmer
"	"
Calibin	"
"	Farm Laborer
Davidson	Farmer
"	Farmer Laborer
"	" "
White	Farmer
Lockwood	"
Crane	Farm Laborer
Baker	Farmer
Pierce	"
Pierce	"
Jenkins	"
"	"
Pickering	Cattle Broker
"	Farmer
"	"
Merchant	"
Nowlan	"
"	Farm Laborer
"	" "
"	" "
Keech	Farmer
"	Farm Laborer
"	" "
"	" "
"	Teacher
Tyrrell	Farmer
"	Farm Laborer
Merrells	" "
Landon	" "
Yale	Farmer
Codey	"
"	Farm Laborer
Dowd	Farmer
Reynolds	"
"	"
Crosley (Crosby)	Farmer
Reynolds	Farmer
S ??	"
Flint	"
Thurber	"
Ketchum	Farm Laborer
Mattoon	Farmer
"	Farm Laborer
Croffut, Joel	Farmer
Troose	Domestic
Pierce	Farmer
"	"
"	Farm Laborer
Williams	Shingle dresser
Wright	Farmer
Porter	Domestic
Sornsberger	Farmer
"	House Joiner

1860 Census

West Colesville

Martin	Farmer
Mas??	"
Mott	Farm Laborer
Pickering	Farmer
Tiege	Farm Laborer
Wilcox	" "
Crofut, Joseph	Farmer
Scudder	Farmer
Phillips	"
Baker	"
Flint	Farm Laborer
Heath	" "
Nichols	Farmer
Wales	"
"	Farm Laborer
"	" "
"	" "
Thompson	Farmer
Mather	Domestic
Phillip	Farm Laborer
Thurber	House Joiner
Livingston	Drover
Booth	Blacksmith
Blatchley	Wagon Maker
"	" " Apprentice
Hull	House Joiner
Gaize	Farmer
Westfall	"
Dort, Jeremiah C.	Physician
Scudder	Farmer
Laughlin	Blacksmith
Edwards	Farmer
"	"
Youngs	Domestic
Flint	Farmer

Doryville

Doolittle	Farmer
" 18y	Student
Kresson	Farmer
Smith	"
"	Laborer
Hubbard	Farmer
Smith	Laborer
Bunker	"
Ives	Farmer
"	Laborer
Bas--?	Farmer
Pearsons	Laborer
Baker	"
Johnson	Farmer
Case	House Joiner
"	Laborer
"	"
Seward	"
"	Farmer
Fuller	"
Robenson	Domestic
Kronkite	Laborer
Adams	House Joiner
Rowe	Farmer
Seward	"
Hulce	Laborer
Dunning	"
Davenport	Farmer
"	Farm Laborer
"	" "
Stringham	Farmer
Hubbard	"
Vosbury, Orsmond	Farmer
"	Laborer
Furguson	"
Swift	Farmer
Burrows	"
Baker	"
Demaree	"
Carl	"
"	"
Vromon	Laborer
Putnam	Farmer
Gates	"
"	"
"	"
"	Farm Laborer
Rowe	Laborer
McHenry	"

Center-Village

Parsons	Farmer
Robinson	"
"	"
"	"
Wilbur	"
Kronkite	"
Atwell	"
Goodsell	"
"	"
Dean	"
"	Farm Laborer
Burrows	Farmer
Travis	"
Brizzee	"
Fisk	"
Munsell	"
Champlin	Laborer
Putnam	Farmer - Millwright
Johnson	"
Hendrickson	Shoemaker
Furgusen	Laborer
Smith	Farmer
Doolittle	"
Dykeman	Cooper
Hunsbury	Farmer
Brainard	Miller
Larkey	Laborer
Poole	Farmer
Springsteel	Domestic
Crary	Farmer
Throop	"
Putnam	"
"	Farm Laborer
"	" "
Terry	Farmer
Mameraus?	Grocer
Carron	Laborer
"	"
Edward Harpur	Farmer
Titus	Domestic
Pearsons	Farm Laborer
Kennedy	Laborer
Misvine?	"
Mudge	Underwriter
"	Teacher
Stone	Saddler
Winne	Farmer
Case	"
Searles	Farm Laborer
"	" "
"	" "
Osgood	" "
Doolittle	Farmer
Watrous	Laborer
Patrick	Farmer
Merrill	Laborer
Hyse	Farmer
Heyer	"
Wilson	Carpenter
"	Laborer
"	Laborer
"	"
"	"
Monell	C.B.Clergiman
"	Laborer
Bickson	"
Woodworth	Farmer
"	Laborer
"	"
Scodas	Do,estic
Roe	Teacher
Smith	Farmer
Kilmer	Laborer
Bunker	"
Hendrickson	Farmer
"	Farm Laborer
Knox	Farmer
"	"
Blakeslee	"
"	Farm Laborer
Wasson	Farmer
"	"
Dickenson	"
Smith	"
Tuttle	"
"	"
Furgeson	"
Beksemer	"
Patrick	Laborer
Hase	"
"	"
"	"
"	"
Best	"
Manwarren	"
O'Connell	Farmer
"	Farm Laborer
Porter	Farmer
"	Farm Laborer
Noble	" "
Terwilliger	" "
Harpur, Robert age 39	Farmer
Doolittle	Laborer

Center Village, continued

Woodworth	Teacher
Lord	Laborer
"	"
Champlain	Carpenter
Monell	Farmer
"	"
"	Farm Laborer
Brizzee	Farmer
"	"
Dykeman	"
"	Farm Laborer
Demoree	" "
"	" "
"	" "
"	" "
"	" "
Crowell	Domestic
Northrop	Tanner
Austi n	Domestic
Miller	Landlord
Williams	Laborer
Judd	Farmer
"	Farmer Laborer
"	" "
"	" "
Crandall	Domestic
OBrien?	Laborer
Nodey	"
Doolittle	Carding cloth
Grant	Tanner
Brainard	Laborer
Cunningham	Shoemaker
Barnes	Farmer
Pearsons	Laborer
Stow, Goe.	Farmer
Barnes	Teacher
Eldsed	Farmer
Tripp	Miller
Felter	Mill wright
Johnson	Farmer
Seward	Carpenter
McCollough	Farmer
"	Teacher
Castle	Farm Laborer
Pease	" "
Estes	Farmer
"	Farm Laborer
Parsons	Farmer
Quinn	Domestic
Seward	"
Parsons	Farmer
"	Farm Laborer
Knowland	Mill wright
Brant	" "
Obrien	Laborer
Carle	Blacksmith
Jones	" Apprentice
Northrop	Tanner
Munmman	Farmer
"	Laborer
Doolittle	Farmer
"	"
Simeon Harper	Farmer
Austin	Laborer
"	"
Mays	Cooper
Stow, Nelson	Whip manufacturer Invented Flexible shaft
" Ed.	
Perkin, Mary	Whips sales
Whittaker	Laborer
Dickinson	Whip maker
Dykman	Laborer
Olendorf	Merchant
Crosby	Laborer
Allen	"
Pearsons	Farmer
"	"

1860 Census

Osborne Hollow

Edgerton	Farm Laborer
Orin Jenks	Physician
"	Farm Laborer
Tupper	Painter
Hilton (Hitton)	Farmer
Flint	Farmer
"	"
Reynolds	"
Hitchcock	Farm Laborer
Holcomb, Robin	" "
Harwood	" "
Russel	Farmer
Dunning	"
"	Farm Laborer
"	" "
Wayman	Domestic
Stanley	Shoemaker
Russell	Farmer
"	"
Ganow	"
"	Farm Laborer
"	" "
Webb	Farmer
Shear	"
Chasehill	"
Godfrey	"
Andrewa	Farm Laborer
"	Mechanic
Snyder, Solomon	Physician
Crandall	Blacksmith
Rosebrook	Farmer
"	Farm Laborer
Allerton	House Joiner
Prentice	Farmer
"	Farm Laborer
"	" "
Kipp	Farmer
"	"
"	"
Doopree	"

Nathaniel Evarts	Farmer
Abbott	Domestic
Smith	Farmer
"	Farm Laborer
"	" "
"	" "
Bump	Farmer
Hall, Orlo C.	Physician
Whitham	Farmer
"	Farm Laborer
Whitford	Farmer
Jewell	"
Judd, Julius	"
Odell	"
Andrus	"
"	"
"	Grocer
Reynolds	Blacksmith
"	Farmer
Everts, Alonzo	Farmer
Burup ?	Farm Laborer
Bethe	" "
Smith	Clerk
Lyon	Farmer
Higley, Rosewell	Farmer
Herrick	Mason
Higley, Jesse	Farmer
McDaniel	Farmer
"	Farm Laborer
Bishop	Farmer
Watrous	House Joiner
Silsbee, Wm. M.E.	Clergyman
Hilton	Farmer
"	Laborer
Cox	Farmer
"	Farm Laborer
Fuller	Farmer

Burdsall Lineage.

(From "A Bennett Book" by Frank I. Bennett, 1921.

I Nathan Birdsall (He came to America with his father. We prefer to count his father generation (1) and Nathan (2). He was one of seven purchasers of Killingworth upon Matimecock, of the indians in 1684 Nathan came from Massachusetts to New Haven, then to East Hampton, Long Island where he owned land in 1653, thence in 1663 in Southold, Long Island and later in Martincock, where he located as early as 1668. It is not positively known who he married, although Bunker's Long Island History says it was Temperance Baldwin. (this has been thoroughly disproven. His wife is unknown. P.M.B.)

Children
- Benjamin m Mercy Foreman.
- Samuel m Jane Langdon, Mary Eastland.
- William
- Nathaniel m Mary Eastland.
- Henry
- Stephen m Mary.
- Nathan

II Benjamin Birdsall (2) Nathan (1)
Will dated 1719. Married c 1682 Mercy Foreman, Long Island. He was living in Jerusalem, L.I. in 1695.

Children -
- Elizabeth b June [illegible] 1683, m Nathaniel Townsend
- Susannah b July 1685, m John Underhill.
- Samuel b September 1, 1687 m Sarah Wright.
- Judith b January 1689-90 m 1728 Townsend.
- Benjamin b 1691 m Martha
- Maryan May 19, 16[illegible]
- John b March 17, 1696 m Elizabeth Langdon
- Alpha b Febr. 11. 1698
- Sarah b May, 1702
- Albyah or Ambah
- Nathan b 1706 m Jane Langdon

III Nathan Birdsall, Benjamin II, Nathan I
Born in Long Island 1706, m April 12, 1726, Jane Langdon. Nathan moved to the main land soon after marriage. Baird's history of Rye, Westchester Co. says he was there in 1728, being the first Quakers in the county. His stay there was brief as he and Benjamin Ferris removed to what is now Quaker Hill, Town of Pauling, Dutchess Co., in 1728. In Rev. Wilson's Quaker Hill his residence is shown near Oblong Meeting House.

Children -
- John b Aug, 11, 1727 m Elizabeth Tripp & Rebecca Elwell.
- James b Oct. 18, 1728 m Hannah Aikins.
- Nathan b Febr. 1,1732-3 m Content Soule.
- Lucretia b Jan. 24 1733-4 m Gordon Wickham.
- Ann b Aug. 24, 1736.
- Sarah b Sept. 10, 1739 m Nathan Soule.
- Jane b Aug. 26, 1741 m Timothy Brownell.
- Banjamin b Oct.4, 1743 m Elizabeth Akin.
- Mary b Oct. 8, 1745 m Jabez Sherman.
- Phebe b Aug. 30 1749 m John Thomas.

IV John Birdsall, Nathan (3), Benjamin (2), Nathan (1)
Was born on Long Island, of Rye, Westchester Co., Aug. 11, 1727, died Sept, 17, 1815, at Unadilla, N,Y,, m first Elizabeth Tripp by whom he had one son Lemual. m second Rebeccah Elwell. Was a Revolutionary War soldier, member of Capt. Alexander Kidds Company of Luddington's Reg. of New York Militia.

Children -

Lemuel or Elemuel b April 12, 1749, died in Delaware Co., N.Y. about 1835 m Martha Calkins
Lydia m Col. William Pierce
Sarah m John B, Haviland
Squire b Oct. 24, 1761 m Jerusha Solomon.
John Jr. b Nov. 9, 1763 m Mary Potter.
Timothy b Nov. 6. 1768 m Ann Campbell.
Rebeccah b June 30, 1771 m Henry Pierce.
Anna b May 22, 1774 m Joseph Dodge.
Mary b March 7, 1777 m John Youmans.
Cynthia b Oct. 11 1780 m Benona Cook.

V Lemuel Birdsall, John (4), Nathan (3) Benjamin (2) Nathan (1)
Was born on Quaker Hill, Dutchess Co., N.Y. April 12, 1749. Died on Quaker Hill in Harpersfield, Deleware Co., N.Y., 1835. m Martha Calkins. Was Revolutionary War soldier, member of 3rd Reg., Dutchess Co., Militia

Children -

John b 1769, Died at Harpersfield Sept. 12, 1852 m Lucy Wickham
Nancy m Simon Fuller.
Abagail m John Harper.
Sally m James Copley
Micheal b May 10, 1775, died 1863 m Wealthy Webster
Oliver m Jemima Davis, & Mary Goodrich
Benjamin
Chloe
William

VI John Birdsall, Lemuel (5) John (4) Nathan (3), Benjamin (2) Nathan (1) b 1769, died Deleware Co., N.Y. at Harpersfield Sept. 9, 1852 m Lucy Wickham.

Children -

Chloe m Elisha Brown.
Lydia m Joseph Copley.
Sally Ann m Pierce
John Ira m Bragg

He numbers his American generations from Nathan. We number ours from Nathan's father, Henry. Henry and his son Nathan were both born in England so either system is satisfactory but the difference may be confusing.

The line of Laura (Birdsall) Bancroft wife of Dr. John D. Bancroft of Harpursville, N.Y.

English Ancestry

Birdsall (1) No record of this generation.
1425
Thomas (2)
1450
John (3)
b 1490
Robert (4)
b 1520
m Isabel Marshall
Henry (5)
b 1550 d 1631
m Alice
Henry (6)
b 1585 to America in 1628
m wife unknown. Widower when emmigrated.

American Ancestry

Henry (1) same as Henry (6) English generations above.
b 1585 England
d 1651 will proved at Salem.
Nathan (2)
b 1611 England
1643 in New Haven, Ct.
m c 1645 wife unknown
1653 East Hempton, L.I., 1660 Westmorelamd
1690 Matinecock, L.I., 1677 Oyster Bay, L.I.
d 1698
Benjamin (3)
b c 1660
1685 Oyster Bay, L.I., Green N.Y. "Quaker Hill"
m Mercy Foreman
Nathan (4)
b c 1700
Pawling, N.Y.
m Jane Langdon
John (5)
b 1727
Unadilla, N.Y.
m Elizabeth Tripp
d 1815
John (6)
b 1763
Otego, Otsego Co., N.Y.
m Mary Potter
d 1850
Laura (7)
b 1805
Otego N.Y.
m Dr. John D. Bancroft of Harpursville (1800-1872)
d 1882
(Birdsall Bulletin, Febr 1984, p 10)
(Bancroft Papers, Vol. I, part 2, Geneology)

Isaac Birdsall (3) was a loyalist and left Long Island to settle in Canada. For his loyalty was granted land in New Brunswick. The strong Birdsall family in and around Lincoln and Waverly,Nebraska, are descendants of this Isaac Birdsall. Our line is connected through Nathan (2) of Oyster Bay, L.I.

There were many loyalists in New York. One such, a Birdsall, was ambushed by a group of "cow boys", revolutionaries, as he returned to his home. The English navy had to remove large numbers to Canada who feared similar reprisals. Anti loyaltist feeling ran high after the war. (P.M.B.

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